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THE  
**MONTHLY**  
**GAZETTE OF HEALTH;**  
OR  
MEDICAL, DIETETIC, ANTIEMPIRICAL,  
AND  
**General Philosophical Journal.**

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BY  
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**VOL. X.**  
FOR THE YEAR 1825.

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**LONDON:**  
SOLD BY SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES,  
*Paternoster Row;*  
SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, BALDWIN AND CO. AND HIGHLEY AND SON;  
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**1826.**

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*Price 12s. 6d. in Boards.*

LONDON:  
Printed by R. Clay, Devonshire-street, Bishopsgate.

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# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 109.]

To JANUARY 1, 1825.

[VOL. X.

## PHYSIC.

### OF COSTIVENESS.—(Continued from p. 1161, vol. ix.)

ALTHOUGH it is common to meet with individuals (especially females) in perfect health, whose bowels are seldom relieved oftener than once a week, and who experience a considerable degree of general debility from a copious operation of an aperient medicine, it is perhaps prudent to produce more frequent evacuations, by gradual and gentle means; a retention of faeces, and a deficiency of the fecal secretion of the colon, evidently predisposing the constitution to epidemic and constitutional maladies, and tending, in other respects, to shorten life; for it has been observed, that subjects whose bowels have not been regularly relieved every or every other day, very rarely attain the age of forty; whilst those who attended to the proper regulation of their bowels, generally not only live many years longer, but escape the epidemics of the seasons. We shall, therefore, notice the treatment of constitutional costiveness, although the general health is not apparently disturbed by it. In subjects of between the ages of ten to thirty years, this habit of body should be corrected by gradual and gentle means; for, if active or powerful purgative medicines be administered daily, or two or three times a week, as directed by Dr. Hamilton and other practitioners, to conquer it, it will, after the remedies are discontinued, recur for a longer period. After the intestinal canal has been well emptied by a drastic purge, it will not, in a habit constitutionally costive, fill again for some days, so as to produce a disposition to an evacuation. We have known the bowels to remain costive for a fortnight after a copious operation of a potent purgative medicine, in persons who had been in the habit of visiting the water-closet once a week; and we have known the daily exhibition of an active purgative produce, in similar cases, serious mischief on the rectum, and alarming degree of general debility; and we have no doubt, many thousands have been hurried to their graves by a blind perseverance in this plan of treatment, by the converts to the Hamiltonian doctrines.

The most obstinately costive habit may in general be conquered, by adopting certain articles of diet which possess a slight aperient property, and by avoiding those which have an opposite quality. Of the former class, perhaps, the most efficacious are, ripe and boiled or baked fruit: as apples, pears, plums, figs, gooseberries, currants, mulberries, &c. which, in various forms, a person whose digestion is good, may constitute a part of every meal. The stem of the rhubarb plant, when baked (without pastry), is also a good aperient article of diet. The aperient effects of these articles are greatly promoted by taking fifteen or twenty grains of the carbonate of soda, dissolved in a small tumbler of water, about two hours after a meal. Green vegetables (boiled), gruel, and honey, are

also proper articles of diet. Of the articles to be avoided, may be noticed, all jellies (vegetable and animal), pastry, mealy potatoes, biscuits, and astringents—as port wine, cinnamon, nutmegs, &c. Cheese-whey and water are the best articles to take, as a common beverage. The proportion of vegetables should exceed that of meat; and the latter should be taken under-cooked, so as to contain the red gravy, and should be well masticated, with some vegetable matter—as cabbage, *brown* bread, &c. Mustard, black pepper, and salt, are also proper additions.

Exercise of riding on horse-back, and of walking, are powerful auxiliaries to this diet, but that in a coach with good springs has generally a contrary effect. The person may also habituate himself to go to the water-closet about half an hour after breakfast every or every other day, and to attempt to exercise his mind on the bowels,\* and by persevering in this practice some weeks, many individuals have succeeded in their object. He should not, however, make an effort amounting to what is termed *straining*; for, by it, a degree of afflux of blood to the brain has been produced, as to occasion serious mischief. We have known a fatal case of apoplexy immediately to follow an effort to relieve the bowels, and that, too, when the system was not in a plethoric state, the patient having a few hours previously to his visit to the closet lost twenty ounces of blood by cupping. One of the advantages of bringing the bowels into a regular state, by simple means, or by articles of diet, is the important functions of the stomach, and of the small intestines, not being dis-

\* The influence of the stimulating and depressing passions of the mind on the stomach and intestines, and also on some of the viscera of the abdomen and pelvis, is well known; the sudden action of stimulating ones, as anger and joy, soon after a meal, interrupting digestion, and sometimes exciting vomiting, and the sudden action of grief occasioning violent purging. By frequently directing the mind to the intestinal canal, and making an effort to bring it into action, we think, a person might, by perseverance, bring some of the involuntary muscles of the intestines, in some degree, under the influence of the mind, the peristaltic motion of the intestines being so easily retarded and increased through the medium of the mind. Dr. Hunter has noticed a case of a prolapsed uterus, which the female had, by frequent efforts, brought under the action of the mind, so far as to move the protuding part backwards and forwards; and we have no doubt, those who have established regular bowels, by making frequently, for some time, a kind of mental effort, have brought the muscular coat of the lower intestines, in some degree, under the influence of the mind. We know a medical gentleman who cannot remain ten minutes in the shop of a bookseller in Fleet-street, when the master is in it, without experiencing an urgent necessity of visiting his water-closet, and that too after having had his regular daily evacuation. This effect he attributes to the doleful countenance of the bookseller. The fact shews how easily the bowels are disturbed through the medium of the mind.

turbed by them, the body is not deprived of the benefit of diet. If the means should not succeed, we should employ an aperient medicine, which, by digestion, will not disorder the stomach, interrupt the process of chylification in the duodenum, or prevent the absorption of chyle. It has been observed, that the various purgative articles employed in the practice of medicine, operate more on one portion of the intestinal canal than on another, viz, that the neutral salts, as the Epsom, Glauber's, and the compound of them, sold under the name of Cheltenham salt, by their peculiar irritating quality, hurry off the contents of the stomach and small intestines, and do not act on the internal surface of the colon; that when either is taken immediately after a meal, the evacuations contain undigested food, and when two hours after a meal, even chyme and chyle without much fecal matter.

The late Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester, noticed an instance of a lady having passed very hard faeces (Scybala) from the colon, which it appeared, from containing the seeds of currants, she had taken five weeks previously to her visit to Cheltenham, and had remained in the cells of the colon during that time, although she had been purged every day for a month by the Cheltenham water; and similar cases have been noticed by eminent practitioners after daily purging by castor oil and salts. In those cases, it is clear the thin fluid, the saline water and castor oil had hurried through the small intestines, passed over the hard faeces, and that it did not stimulate the colon so as to promote the fecal secretion, or to bring it into action.

Another very great objection to the saline purgatives, is, they reduce the temperature of the stomach and bowels, so as to diminish the transmission of blood through them; the consequence of which is, the circulation to the head is increased; and this effect is so common, that many people, immediately after swallowing a long draught of a saline mineral water, or of a solution of the Epsom, Glauber's, or Cheltenham salts, become very giddy; and others are affected with the most distressing head-ache.

Another objection to a saline medicine, is, a portion sometimes enters the blood, so as to irritate the neck of the bladder, and other parts which are preternaturally tender or disposed to inflammatory action. For these reasons, we condemn the exhibition of the neutral salts, (so frequently employed,) in cases of constitutional costiveness. In a late number, we have given a prescription for a pill to obviate costiveness, and to promote digestion; but to the species of costiveness on which we now treat, in consequence of not being attended with indigestion, the aperient ingredient, (extract of rhubarb) is not applicable, on account of its rather increasing than decreasing the disposition to costiveness, after it has performed its aperient operation. The article which we have found to agree best with the stomach and small intestines, and to promote the fecal secretion of the colon, without irritating the rectum, is jalap, a purgative medicine which has unfortunately fallen nearly into disuse among some class of practitioners, probably in consequence of its becoming a popular article.

The following is the form we generally adopt :—  
 Take of Extract of Jalap (Gum-resin) one drachm ;  
 Resin of Jalap, one scruple ;  
 Oil of Caraway-seeds, twenty drops ;

Rub the oil and the resin together in a Wedgewood mortar, and then add the extract, and when well blended, divide the mass into twenty pills—of these, one, two, or three may be taken every or every other night, according to their aperient effect, i. e. if the bowels have been accustomed to one evacuation in the course of a week, the dose should be regulated so as to produce one every fourth or fifth day, and after this state has continued about three weeks or a month, it should be increased so as to produce an evacuation every third day, and in this manner the person may go on till he has got his bowels into a proper regular state of one evacuation every or every other day, as he may find best to agree with his constitution ; and after the bowels have been accustomed to an evacuation every or every other day, for two months, the dose may be gradually diminished, so that the medicine may entirely be omitted in the course of two or three months, when, in general, the aperient diet, noticed above, will keep them in a regular state.

If the pills of extract of jalap, &c. with the diet we have recommended, should not succeed in increasing sufficiently the peristaltic motion of the intestines, we should apply a remedy to the seat of costiveness, viz. the colon, the part of the intestinal canal which secretes the true fecal discharge. For this purpose, about a quart of water, with a table-spoonful of common salt, heated to about 100 degrees, may be injected into the rectum by means of an elastic bag, increasing gradually the propelling force ; so that the fluid may be conveyed into the colon without irritating the rectum. In France and Italy, this remedy is preferred in cases of costiveness, to the exhibition of purgative medicine by the mouth, and it is certainly very preferable to those purgative medicines which disorder the organs of digestion, or hurry the chyle through the small intestines\*. The colon is, perhaps, the principal depurator of the blood in the body. The idea of the general health being in the smallest degree influenced by an impure or foul state of the blood, (an opinion which prevails throughout the Continent,) has been much ridiculed by some English practitioners, who are considered by the weak part of the profession, great authorities ; but we conceive, whoever considers the process of mutation constantly going on in the body, that the chyle formed in the duodenum, from the food digested in the

\* Gruel, or thin starch, so generally employed as lavements in cases of costiveness, very rarely produce the desired effect, in consequence, (from their degree of consistency), of not acting on the slime of the intestines, or on the retained faeces. Warm water, without a neutral salt, will act more efficaciously, by softening the faeces, than either gruel or starch, with an aperient salt. A short pipe, covered with elastic gum, should be employed by those who are in the habit of using such injections, to avoid irritation of the rectum, which, from its texture, is disposed to formidable disease.

stomach, is conveyed to the mass of blood, to repair the parts of the body that require it, and that the old particles are also conveyed to the mass of blood, must admit that if the depurators do not perform their office, by separating from the mass the impurities which are conveyed to it, the blood must necessarily become foul. Now what are the organs in the human body which act as depurators of the blood? The office of the kidneys all physiologists allow to be, to convey foul and superfluous serum from the blood, but their secretion is a fluid. The liver was regarded by Boerhaave as a depurator of the blood, but if this were really its office one would suppose, that the secretion would not be conveyed into the part of the intestines, in which the chyle is formed for the nourishment of the body. Although it is the fashion to attribute almost all the constitutional and local diseases, of common occurrence, to some unhealthy condition of the liver; a great variety of opinions exist as to its office in the animal economy, some supposing that it is to keep up the peristaltic motion; others, that it is a chemical agent, by which the chyle is separated from the chyme formed in the stomach; others, that it is concerned in converting the chyle conveyed to the mass of blood, into blood.—With respect to its real office, we agree in opinion with the physiologist, who frankly states his belief, that it remains to be discovered. The secretion from the internal coat of the colon is clearly from the blood, and we believe no person will dispute its being *excrementitious*. The colon, from its situation and the nature of its secretion, is probably the chief depurator of the blood in the human body; and if so, it is of great consequence for the preservation of health to keep up its fecal secretion. In chronic affections of the skin, attributed by the French physicians to foulness of the blood, lavemens, which increase the secretion of the colon, have certainly proved very beneficial. We have digressed so far from the subject of constitutional costiveness, with the view of reconciling those to the cathartics who are prejudiced against them.

If the foregoing treatment should not succeed in conquering the disposition in the intestines to costiveness, we may attribute its obstinacy to preternatural rigidity of fibre (a species termed by Professor Cullen, *obstipatio rigidorum*); in which case, an anodyne will promote the operation of the aperient medicines, diet, &c. by diminishing the rigidity of the intestines, &c. For this purpose, four grains of the extract of henbane may be given at bed-time, or twice a day; and, to promote its operation, the warm bath should be employed three times a week. The henbane and the tincture of the colchicum seeds, are the only proper antispasmodics in cases of costiveness attended with rigidity, on account of their not diminishing the irritability of the muscular coat of the canal. Opium, and the other vegetable narcotics, are more efficacious in relaxing preternatural rigidity of the fibres; but, by lessening also the power of the muscular coat of the intestine, on which their peristaltic motion depends, they also tend to favour costiveness. In diarrhoea, and even inflammation of the intestine, opium, by allaying morbid excitement, and diminishing the irritability of the muscular coat, is, when judiciously administered, a most valuable medicine.

If the aperient pills of extract of jalap, &c., the occasional use of lavement, the henbane extract, with the aperient diet, exercise, warm bath, &c. should fail to produce the desired effect on the bowels, the compound extract of colocynth may be substituted for the extract of jalap, in the aperient pills; and if that composition should fail, one, two, three, or four of the following pills may be administered every or every other day, according to their effects on the bowels:—

Take of Croton Oil, 10 drops;

Dried Castile Soap, 2 scruples;

Compound Extract of Colocynth, 1 drachm;

Oil of Caraway Seeds, 12 drops.

Mix well together, and divide into twenty pills.—If the patient be subject to, or affected with piles, or irritation about the rectum, or anus, or neck of the bladder, the simple extract of colocynth may be substituted for the compound. These compositions, being very drastic purgatives, should be exhibited only in cases of costiveness which have resisted the combined means we have recommended; but drastic as they are, they are certainly preferable to the remedy employed by the late Drs. Reynolds and Spence, noticed in our last Number, viz. affusion of cold water over the abdomen and pelvis; which acts by producing inflammatory excitement, the progress of which, in some constitutions, is frequently so rapid as to destroy life in a few days, notwithstanding the most active means are employed to subdue it.

Of the popular remedies for costiveness, there are three, besides the neutral salts noticed in a preceding page, which are objectionable; viz. aloes, castor oil, and lenitive electuary.

The extracts termed hepatic, socotrine, and Barbadoes aloes, when long continued, are apt to occasion piles, or irritation about the rectum, which, in an elderly person, may be productive of serious mischief. The "famous Scotch Pills," as they are termed, are composed of aloes and oil of aniseed; and to the free use of them, many thousands who have fallen a sacrifice to scirrho-contraction, and cancerous ulceration of the rectum, two of the most dreadful diseases to which human nature is liable, may justly attribute their severe maladies. The objection to castor-oil is, that, unless it be digested in the stomach, it will become so acrid in the small intestines as to produce liquid motions, which, like those of salts, will pass over hardened faeces in the colon. By nauseating the stomach, it also frequently disturbs digestion. A great objection to lenitive electuary is, that it will not keep many days without fermenting; in which state, it soon becomes acid in the stomach, and occasions distressing flatulence and griping pains.

On going over the foregoing instructions for obviating constitutional costiveness, we find we have omitted to notice a very powerful auxiliary, if not remedy, viz. Galvanism. If the aperient pills of jalap, lavements, with the aperient diet, exercise, &c. should not succeed, Galvanism should be resorted to, in preference to drastic purgatives. For the purpose of obviating costiveness of children, cheese-whey, sweetened with manna, taken every morning

before breakfast, is an excellent remedy. With the view of removing superabundant slime from the intestines, a common attendant on costiveness in young subjects, a few grains of the Basilic powder may be given once a week, for the course of a month or six weeks. This article will also dislodge worms, if any should be present.

We shall now proceed to notice the treatment of the different species of costiveness, for which there are evident causes,—as the costiveness from sedentary life, intense application of the mind, and from debility—the costiveness attendant on retention of the menses, and accompanied with symptoms of incipient consumption; of which complaints it is often the occasional cause—the costiveness attendant on ricketty and unhealthy (phlegmatic) children, and of gouty and rheumatic subjects; which require particular treatment—and the costiveness or retention of faeces from mechanical causes; as impregnated womb, intromission, stricture of the colon, &c.

*Treatment of Costiveness from Sedentary Life, &c.*—People who are confined eight or ten hours to a counting-house, or whose minds are intensely occupied in deep researches, or study, although they take exercise, are very subject to costiveness; and, in the course of a short time, become affected with all the consequences of bad digestion; as flatulence, head-ache, nervous restlessness, lowness of spirits, &c. In such case, we have two objects in view, viz. to keep up the power of the digestive organs, and to increase the peristaltic motion of the intestines. For these purposes, two or three of the following pills may be taken twice or thrice a day, with a wine-glassful of cold water, so as to produce an alvine evacuation once a day.

Take of Extract of Fumitory, half a drachm.

Ditto of Rhubarb, one drachm.

Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, half a drachm.

Powdered Ginger, one scruple.

Mix well together and divide the mass into thirty pills. If three of these pills thrice a day should not succeed in producing the desired operation daily, extract of jalap may be substituted for the extract of rhubarb; and if this composition should not succeed, recourse should be had to a lavement of a solution of salt, as recommended for constitutional costiveness, page 4. If the head should become overloaded with blood, to which the sedentary clerks of merchants and bankers, and also the deeply studious, are very subject, an active dose of a purgative pill, which will effectually empty the bowels, and also purge the viscera, as the liver, spleen, &c., such as the antibilious pills of the late Dr. Deck, termed the Bengal pills, may be taken once a week. Although we may succeed by these means to obviate costiveness, it is worthy of notice, that without exercise, the person will not enjoy sound health. Such exercise as will shake the bowels, as riding on horseback, or on the box of a coach, should therefore be taken every morning or evening, when the stomach is most empty. The game of billiards affords good bodily exercise, and amusing the mind at the same time, often proves very beneficial. The position of stooping over a desk during

writing, favouring an afflux of blood to the head, preventing a due expansion of the chest during inspiration, and interrupting the functions of the digestive organs, should be avoided. The advice to visit the water-closet once a day, to bring the bowels into action, given in page 2, should be observed by those who are under the necessity of leading a sedentary life. The studious should occasionally relax their minds by some amusement: for this purpose some philosophers of the present day, whose minds are much engaged in chemical investigations, recommend angling; but as this amusement is often not sufficient to detach the mind from a favourite study, we should recommend the game of billiards, or of whist, both of which requiring a little pleasing calculation, generally occupy the mind. The shower bath is an important auxiliary, and sometimes proves a remedy for costiveness occasioned by an inactive life, or close engagement of the mind on intricate subjects. In the latter case it greatly allays that nervous excitement of brain which deep investigation is apt to produce, and which probably, by exhausting the nervous energy of the brain, occasions sluggishness of the intestines.

*Treatment of costiveness, from debility.* For the treatment of this species of costiveness, which occurs in weakly (phlegmatic) subjects and in elderly people, we have given some directions in our 86th number (page 430, vol. viii.) The late Dr. Campbell, of Hereford, often prescribed a tawement of the infusion of horse radish, to be administered about twice a week, with the view of stimulating the rectum, and of softening the faeces collected in it and in the colon, and in general it answered the purpose so well, as to enable the patient to expel the collected mass with great facility. He also ordered a wine-glassful of the following mixture, to be taken three times a day.

Take of Mustard Seed, bruised, one ounce.

Horse Radish, ditto, one ounce.

Mix and infuse in a pint of barley water, in a close vessel, for three hours; then pour off the liquid, and add to it,

Tincture of Columbo, half an ounce.

Compound Tincture of Bark, one ounce.

Ditto Spirit of Ammonia, three drachms.

Mix.

Dr. Blount, physician to the Hereford Infirmary, and the late Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester, frequently prescribed the following composition, in cases of costiveness from debility, both in elderly and young subjects.

Take of Extract of Guaiac Wood, half a drachm.

Hepatic Aloes, one drachm.

Sub-carbonate of Iron, one scruple.

Mix and divide into thirty pills; from two to three to be taken twice or thrice a day, with a glass of camomile tea.

The compound decoction of aloes, in the dose of a wine-glassful every morning, was also a remedy with the late Dr. Cheston.

The cause being principally seated in the lower portion of the intestinal canal, an aperient medicine taken by the mouth seldom

succeeds, without the co-operation of a stimulating clyster. If the rectum be in a state of morbid irritation, or the patient be subject to piles, warm water may be injected in lieu of an infusion of horse radish, and the extract of jalap for the hepatic aloes, in the pills. The compound tincture of senna, of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, in the dose of a table-spoonful or two once a day, is an excellent remedy for this species of costiveness.

In elderly people, congestion of the vessels of the head, by compressing the brain, is a common cause of costiveness; in such case an aromatic purgative, as the following, will prove beneficial, by promoting the circulation in the viscera, &c. of the abdomen.

Take of the Aromatic pill,

Compound Colocynth pill, of each one drachm.

**Mix.** Divide into twenty-four pills, of which two or three may be taken every or every other day, so as to produce one copious evacuation daily.

The Galvanic fluid passed in the course of the spinal marrow, and in different directions through the abdomen, we have known to succeed in several instances of obstinate costiveness from debility; and Mr. La Beaume, in his dissertation on this active agent in the cure of indigestion from debility, notices many cases in which it restored the stomach and intestines to a healthy state, and in which state they afterwards continued for many years, without the aid of medicine.

*Treatment of Costiveness attendant on Retention of the Uterine Secretion, and accompanied with Symptoms indicative of a strong Disposition to Pulmonary Consumption.*

The non-performance of the periodical office of the uterus, at, the period of life when the secretion is necessary for health, arises from the same cause as costiveness, viz. sluggishness; but if the costiveness had been obviated by exercise, and the use of an aperient diet or medicine, a proper circulation of blood and degree of nervous energy would have been kept up throughout the abdominal viscera, and the uterus would in consequence, no doubt, have duly performed its periodical duty, when the state of sympathies and other changes had taken place, to render it necessary for the preservation of health. In this country the uterus commences its periodical secretion from the age of fourteen to eighteen years, and in tropical climates it is common for it to take place at the age of ten, and we sometimes meet with instances in this country of its occurring about the same period; but such cases are, for the most part, the consequences of a plethoric state of the viscera of the abdomen, and are unattended with the appearances of puberty and maturity of mind, which characterise females at the same age in tropical climates: it is indeed more a symptom of a disordered state of the uterus than of health, and often ceases after regularly recurring for twelve months, and the female, instead of suffering from its cessation, actually improves in her general health; and when she has arrived to puberty, a healthy secretion of the uterus will take place, which will establish it on a sound basis. The period of puberty in females varying from the age of fourteen

to eighteen, and some to twenty-one, the suspension of the uterine secretion, even at the age of twenty-two or twenty-four, is not to be considered a case of morbid retention, unless the constitution evidently suffers from the want of it. If a female at the age of from fifteen to twenty-two years, with appearances of maturity of body and mind, becomes affected with irregular circulation of the blood, sometimes taking place in excess to the head, occasioning head-ache, confusion of mind, depression of spirits, loss of appetite, &c.; and sometimes to the lungs, &c. occasioning difficulty of breathing, cough, palpitation of the heart, there can be no doubt that the general health is suffering from the uterus not performing its monthly office; and if the bowels are in a costive state, that the retention arises from a want of a proper determination of blood to it, and if means be not adopted to invigorate the viscera of the abdomen, so as to promote the circulation through them, and direct it to the uterus, irreparable organic mischief will probably take place, either in the chest or brain, a very common sequel in scrofulous subjects.

The digestive organs being generally disordered, and the appetite being often morbid, it is always proper, in cases of costiveness attendant on suspension of the uterine secretion, to administer an aperient in conjunction with a stomachic medicine, although the lungs may be in a state of irritation nearly amounting to inflammatory excitement; and the object of prescribing an aperient not being only to increase the peristaltic motion of the intestines, but to promote the circulation of blood in them, and also in the viscera, a stimulating aperient should be employed, such as the extract of aloes. The following composition we have generally found to succeed.

**Take of Extract of Fumitory,**  
**Extract of Aloes, (socotrine) of each, one drachm;**  
**Subcarbonate of Iron,**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ -- of Soda, dried, of each, a scruple;  
**Ginger Powder, half a drachm;**

Mix well together, and divide into forty pills. One, two, or three to be taken two or three times a day, (with a wine-glassful of infusion of buchu leaves) so as to produce one alvine evacuation daily\*: If the bowels have been obstinately costive, it will be advisable to empty them by an active dose of the cathartic extract, (fifteen grains in three pills) and a purgative clyster of infusion of senna, if necessary: after which, the above stomachic aperient pills will probably keep them in a regular state. This composition never fails to improve the general health, if the lungs and brain have not sustained serious mischief; and, notwithstanding some of the ingredients are stimulating, it generally allays morbid irritation of the lungs and brain; which, in the opinion of some routine legitimate physicians, contraindicates the use of such articles. If after improving the

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\* The infusion of buchu leaves, by stimulating the kidneys, will promote the objects of the pills.

general health, and keeping up a regular state of the bowels by the pills, the uterus should remain indolent, it will be proper to have recourse to a medicine which will act more immediately on its substance. With this view, four grains of blue pill may be administered every other night for a fortnight, which very rarely fail to produce the desired effect, in the course of a month. If, however, the secretion should not take place in the course of a fortnight after the blue pills are discontinued, the uterus may be stimulated once a day, by passing through its region a gentle electric shock.\*

In a late number we noticed a topical remedy (an injection of spirit of ammonia in milk,) which had been very successfully employed in France, by M. Lavagna. This remedy we have known to succeed in a few cases of long standing, but in two cases it excited a considerable inflammation, which extended to the rectum and bladder. Dr. Chesholm, an eminent medical doctor of Canterbury, has employed this remedy (twenty drops of the spirit in three tablespoonfuls of tepid milk) in several obstinate cases of retention, and in *every instance*, he says, with "invariable success." From the peculiar texture of the cervix uteri, and of the vagina, so powerful a stimulus should be employed with great caution ; for if the nerves are much stimulated, and the process of mutation disturbed, very serious structural mischief might ensue.—It is in other respects, which we need not notice, so very objectionable, that few practitioners would resort to it, unless it be absolutely necessary to save life, or to produce a diversion in favour of a disease in the lungs, far advanced towards an incurable stage. The use of the warm bath once or twice a week, the warm foot bath or hip bath, three times a week, friction over the bowels, exercise (as dancing, skipping, riding on horseback, &c.) are powerful auxiliaries to medicine in promoting the uterine secretion. If the stomachic aperient pills should not operate sufficiently on the bowels, a pint of water, with a tablespoonful of common salt, heated to about 100 degrees (Farh.) may be injected into the rectum once or twice a day. This remedy not only proves beneficial in promoting the aperient effects of the day pills, but also, by stimulating the rectum, and acting as a fomentation to the uterus, acts powerfully in bringing on the secretion. If the blue pill, recommended above, should, with the day pills, produce more than one evacuation daily, the dose of the latter should be decreased.

If the chest be free from disease, a stimulating and moderately nutritious diet will be proper—wine and spirituous liquors should be avoided. In case the irritation should run high in the chest, attended with acute pains, or what are termed stitches, slight fever, dry short cough, frequent shiverings, &c., our attention should be

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\* A physician of Edinburgh, whose name we have forgotten, sometime since recommended a tourniquet to be applied to each femoral artery during the use of this remedy, for the purpose of increasing the circulation in the viscera of the pelvis ; and in obstinate cases of retention, the practice is very likely to succeed.

directed to the state of the lungs, more than to that of the uterus. And no active or stimulating means should be employed to bring on the uterine secretion, till the morbid irritation, or inflammatory excitement of the chest, be removed by blistering, leeching, mild aperient and diaphoretic medicines. We find, on going over our manuscript, that we have entered so fully into the treatment of the preceding species, or varieties, of costiveness, that in order to admit other matter, we must postpone the treatment of the remaining species till our next number.

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### ASTHMA.

It appears by an article in an American Journal, that the species of the genus of plants *lobelia*, termed by Linnæus *lobelia inflata*, has lately been found very beneficial in cases of spasmodic asthma, by several respectable physicians of the United States, after other popular remedies, as the *stramonium datura*, meadow saffron, the foetid gums, &c. has failed to afford the slightest relief. Dr. Cutler, an asthmatic, who has been subject to paroxysms nearly ten years, after observing that he had taken the antiasthmatic remedies of the antient and modern writers he considered entitled to a trial, with little or no benefit, (except a species of the genus *pothos*, termed *foetid*, from which he sometimes received considerable relief) states, that the last autumn he had the most violent attack he ever experienced. It commenced about the first of August, and continued eight weeks. The doctor had recourse to the saturated tincture of the *lobelia inflata*, which almost immediately terminated the disease. Dr. Drury, also, gave it a trial, during a violent asthmatic paroxysm, and he says, it instantly relieved him, and that he has remained ever since free from the malady. In a case of severe fit, in which the difficulty of breathing was extreme, the doctor administered a tea-spoonful of the saturated tincture, which, in the course of three minutes, terminated the paroxysm. On the expiration of ten minutes, another tea-spoonful was administered, which occasioned a slight degree of sickness. After another ten minutes, the same dose was repeated, which excited gentle vomiting, and a pricking sensation in the skin; and since these trials, the patient has remained free from the disease, with a much improved state of his general health. Dr. Barton notices a case of violent asthma, for which he prescribed a tea-spoonful of the saturated tincture of the *lobelia inflata*, to be taken every two hours, with speedy and complete success. Dr. Stewart asserts, that he has witnessed very extraordinary cures of asthmatic paroxysms by the saturated tincture, many of which were almost instantaneous. Dr. Cutler has also found it to quiet the cough of consumptive patients, particularly in those cases which are attended with considerable irritation in the membrane lining the windpipe. Dr. Eberle has successfully prescribed it in croup. This plant grows in a wild state, in great abundance, in several parts of North America. The leaves and capsules are very acrid; the powdered leaves, in the dose of ten grains, producing considerable nausea, and in the quantity of fifteen grains generally exciting vomiting, which is frequently followed by a considerable

reduction of strength, and a profuse perspiration. It also often produces an aperient effect. Dr. Bridault de Villiers recommends the plant to be collected in the month of August. It appears by the American physicians, that its peculiar medicinal virtues reside in all the parts of the plant, but that the root and capsules are the most potent. The American physicians prefer the saturated tincture of the root and capsules, to the powdered root or leaves, on account of its being more convenient for exhibition, and of its virtues not being diminished by keeping. The following formula has been published in the United States for making the tincture:—

“Take of the *lobelia inflata* root, or capsules, two ounces; proof spirit, one pint; after digesting ten days, filtre the tincture through paper.” The ordinary dose of this tincture is from thirty to sixty drops, in a table-spoonful of water, two or three times a day, or a large tea-spoonful when symptoms occur indicating an approaching paroxysm. The high terms in which several respectable physicians, of the United States, speak of the saturated tincture of the *lobelia inflata*, coupled with the circumstance of some of them having taken it themselves, with the most decided advantage, entitle it to a trial in this country; and that it may have a fair one, we have ordered the saturated tincture of the root and capsules to be prepared at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, for the accommodation of the members of the profession, and asthmatic subjects, who may think with us, that the reports of the American physicians in its favour are entitled to some credit.

The article being emetic, it is probable its beneficial influence on asthma arises, like that of ipecacuanha powder, tartarised antimony, or other emetic articles, from its nauseating effects on the stomach; and if this be the case, it should be administered to elderly or debilitated asthmatics with great caution; for when the disease is attended with ossification of arteries, effusion of serum in the chest, or the *stamina* bad, nauseating doses of an emetic article, by disordering the stomach, may, and most probably will, induce a dangerous degree of debility, if not terminate life in a few days. In cases of asthma, attended with plethora, or occurring in an individual, whose general health has not been materially impaired, saturated tincture of the *lobelia inflata* may, no doubt, be administered with perfect safety. We should prefer an oxymel of the root or capsules of the plant, to a tincture, because a mixture of vinegar and honey, being of itself very efficacious in allaying morbid irritation of the lining of the windpipe, and in promoting expectoration, it cannot fail to promote the antispasmodic quality of the plant in cases of asthma, and at the same time will obviate its debilitating effect on the stomach. Experience has proved, that the beneficial effects of nauseating and narcotic articles, is considerably promoted by such combinations in affection of the lungs; and, indeed, some articles, as the hedge-hyssop, colchicum seeds, stramonium, &c., have only succeeded as internal remedies in cases of asthma and chronic, inflammation of the windpipe, when in the form of oxymel, i. e. combined with vinegar and honey. The nostrum advertised under the name of vegetable balsam, by Mr. Godbold, which some old women considered a specific remedy for consumption

of the lungs, in consequence of allaying irritation of the membrane of the windpipe, and bronchial ramifications, attended with copious expectoration (an affection often mistaken for pulmonary consumption), is a composition of honey, sugar, and vinegar. The *lobelia inflata* being recommended by the American physicians for the spasmodic species of asthma, it is necessary to observe, for the information of our non-medical readers, that when an asthmatic experiences recurrences of great difficulty of breathing, with a sense of suffocation, and desire to breathe a cool open air, about the middle of night, there can be no doubt of the disease being spasmodic, the symptoms arising from spasms of the diaphragm, and the other respiratory muscles.

Some writers have made a most imposing exhibition of different species of this disease, which experience has not confirmed. In our first Number, we have noticed a *practical* Treatise on the different species of Asthma, by a Dr. Bree; a work which, for some time, had as good a *practical* effect on himself, as the infallible specific for asthma (the vegetable balsam) had on the scientific discoverer, Doctor Goldbold. Professor Cullen notices three species, viz. the spontaneous (when without any manifest cause), the plethoric (when it arises from fulness of the system of blood-vessels), and exanthematous (when produced by repulsion of some humour from the skin). But they are all spasmodic; and the state of the system of blood-vessels, although it may aggravate the disease, is merely accidental; and as to a *repulsion* of humours, it is as common for a paroxysm, in an asthmatic, to be brought on by allaying irritation, or inflammatory action, on the surface of the body, as it is to experience considerable relief on exciting irritation, or inflammation, in the skin, or on the supervention of erysipelatous or erythematous affections. It is common for asthmatics to be also gouty and rheumatic, and for the spasmodic affection of the respiratory muscles to cease, on gout or rheumatism taking place in the extremities; and in such cases, the asthma may be termed gouty, or rheumatic, with as much propriety as an accession of a fit of asthma, on the sudden termination of an erythematous, or any other irritative or inflammatory affection of the skin. As to the species termed humid and dry, the symptoms which distinguish one from the other, viz. a dry and moist state of the membrane lining the windpipe, &c. or with or without expectoration, are dependent on the state of the system of blood-vessels, with respect to plenitude or depletion; the condition of the nervous system, as to excitement; the degree or constriction of the mucous glands; the constitutional rigidity of the system of fibres; and, in a great measure, on the age of the patient;—which are accidental, and have nothing to do with any difference in the nature of the disease, or in its causes, either local or otherwise. In all the cases of asthma we have met with, the paroxysms always commenced with symptoms, more or less denoting a preternatural degree of dryness of the membrane of the windpipe; and all terminated in expectoration, more or less copious. And it has frequently happened, that the same person has alternately been affected with paroxysms attended with symptoms which some moderns notice as distinguishing the humid

from the dry species. Although the asthmatic fit, or true asthmatic difficulty of breathing, is spasmodic, all practitioners of experience and observation, take the state and the peculiarities of the system into consideration, in presenting medicine. The *lobelia inflata* is probably capable of removing the spasmodic affection of the respiratory muscles, or of allaying the morbid irritation of branches of the eighth pair of nerves, on which the attack depends; but if the patient should be suffering from indigestion, the judicious practitioner will also employ a stomach medicine; and if the system be plethoric, he will unload by abstracting blood; or if the general strength has been greatly reduced, or if the long continuance of irritation in the nerves of the lungs has produced structural mischief, he will prescribe remedies capable of disordering the stomach and intestines with great caution. Asthmatic subjects being in general very nervous, are very rarely without some peculiarities. Indeed it is common to meet with cases, from some peculiarity of stomach or nervous system, which are aggravated by the same remedy which, in other cases apparently similar, proved highly beneficial. Ipecacuanha (the wine and powder), which is generally prescribed, in all cases of asthma, by routine physicians, we have known, in many instances, to disturb the eighth pair of nerves so as to bring on a most distressing paroxysm.

Since writing the above, we have received a letter from Dr. Fuller, an American physician, informing us that he has forwarded to us a quantity of the saturated tincture of the *lobelia inflata*, that our medical subscribers and asthmatic subjects may give it a trial. He says, that his own experience with it, in asthma and hooping-cough, has fully confirmed the very favourable reports of its antispasmodic power, by some of the most eminent physicians of the United States.

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## OXALIC ACID.

Mr. William Hebb, a surgeon of Worcester, has lately published a case of poisoning by the oxalic acid, which occurred in the practice of his father. The unfortunate person, (a robust man) was about fifty-seven years of age. "On the morning of the 16th of July last, he swallowed *half* an ounce of the acid, dissolved in a tea-cupful of water, in mistake for the Epsom salt." Being immediately sensible of the mistake, from the strong acid taste of the solution, he lost no time in having recourse to medical aid. Mr. Hebb, senr. who hastened to his assistance, found him in the act of vomiting, having taken a large quantity of warm water to promote it; "this, however, soon ceased, although the *usual* means," says Mr. Hebb, junr. "were adopted to ensure a continuance of it." Mr. Webb, senr. with his son, saw the man again, at nine o'clock, when he complained of most excruciating pain in the lower part of the back, extending down his thighs. He did not complain of any pain in the stomach, or bowels, till three o'clock, which was then only felt on pressure; at seven o'clock the pain in the belly was so acute, that he could not bear the slightest pressure: he had had copious alvine evacuations,

consisting of a *thick black offensive fluid*, with numerous bloody shreds. He had not again vomited. The vital powers continued to sink so rapidly, that at nine o'clock they ceased for ever.

The treatment Mr. Hebb, junr. notices in five lines,—“It consisted,” says he, “in *endeavouring* at the *commencement* to assist the stomach to reject its contents in the *early* and *repeated* administration of *calcined magnesia*, *lime-water*, &c. and *generally* pursuing the plan recommended by M. Orfila in such cases\*.” So it appears by this concise account of the treatment, that the “usual means which Mr. Hebb senr. adopted to *ensure* a continuance of the vomiting, consisted in the early and repeated exhibition of calcined magnesia and lime-water!! Now in our humble opinion, calcined magnesia,

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\* If the other means recommended, were employed, why omit to notice their effects? Orfila recommends twelve or fifteen leeches to be applied over the stomach; and if after the loss of blood, the pain should remove from one place to another, he directs the same number to be applied to such part also; and even on a third change of situation, he says, “We ought not to be afraid of applying fifteen or twenty leeches more.” By Mr. Hebb’s Narrative, it certainly appears, this advice was not adopted. Orfila also says, “When the cure is extremely dangerous, we must then have recourse to the method suggested by Boerhaave, and improved by Messrs. Dupuytren and Renault, which consists in evacuating the stomach by the use of a tube of elastic gum. The tube, says M. Renault, must be of sufficient length to go into the stomach, and to be received into the pipe of a syringe.” If this advice had been adopted, we presume Mr. Hebb would have noticed its effect. As the life of a patient depends on the prompt removal or neutralisation of the acid, it is ridiculous, in the extreme, to delay the use of the stomach instrument till the case becomes extremely dangerous. Mr. Renault having employed the stomach syringe ten or fifteen years since, and as he admits that it was only an improvement on that recommended by the immortal Boerhaave, we are at a loss to discover what claim Mr. Gill, or Mr. Read, or Mr. Jukes, can have to originality in their instruments. Dr. de Sanetis, about ten years ago, employed a tube, covered with elastic gum, for the purpose of conveying warm vapour or water into the stomach in cases of suspended animation, and it is due to Mr. Gill, who made it for the doctor, to say, that he took the idea of his stomach syringe from it. As to Mr. Read’s instrument, we have authority from Dr. Chesholm, of Canterbury, to say, that on examining Mr. Read’s clyster syringe, the doctor suggested the addition of a tube, for the purpose of being introduced into the stomach, in cases of poisons being swallowed. The fact is, the stomach syringe, like many inventions and new remedies, has been shamefully neglected by the lecturers on surgery; and much credit is due to Messrs. Scott and Jukes, in bringing it into general notice. In our next Number, we shall make a comparison between the stomachic syringes of Mr. Gill and Mr. Read; and point out their respective advantages.

by neutralising the acid, was more likely to allay vomiting, than to ensure its continuance.\*

The exhibition of an alcali, to neutralise the acid in the stomach, was unquestionably judicious practice; but whether lime-water and magnesia are the best for this purpose, we have our doubts.

The neutral salts in common use, of which magnesia is the alkaline base, being more purgative than those made with potass, it is fair to infer, that the oxalic acid, neutralised by magnesia, will prove more purgative than when neutralised by pure potass, and consequently by acting more powerfully on the stomach, would be more likely to hurry the contents into the small intestines before the acid is completely neutralised. Certain it is, that the potass being in complete solution, will unite much more rapidly with the acid than the calcined magnesia, but it is still a question whether the neutral salt, formed by the oxalic acid and potass, or magnesia, (oxalate of potass, or oxalate of magnesia,) is not a poison. All poisonous acids are not rendered inert by being neutralised, for prussiate of potass has been found as poisonous as the quantity of prussic acid with which the potass was combined. If this be the case with the oxalic acid, which appears to be a poison, independent of its caustic quality, the only means likely to save the life of a person who has taken a poisonous dose, is, to bring it up by means of a syringe. As to the use of lime-water, the quantity that is necessary to neutralise half an ounce of the acid, would prove injurious, by distending the stomach, and by hurrying the acid into the intestines.†

In the above case, notwithstanding the lime-water and magnesia were administered before the acid could have produced any serious mischief on the internal coat of the stomach, they completely failed in rendering the poison inert, or even in lessening its virulence. Now most scientific Mr. Hebb, junr. had your father or yourself employed the stomach syringe, invented by Mr. Jukes, Mr. Gill, or the improved one by Messrs. Savigney and Co., would not the result have been more creditable to the healing art? There is a

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\* Magnesia is scarcely soluble in a *saturated* solution of the oxalic acid, at 60 degrees; and when heated to the natural temperature of the stomach (98 degrees), it dissolves in it very slowly. If magnesia be employed, it should be administered in water, of a temperature rather higher than of the stomach. To chalk, recommended by Orfila, a great objection is a distressing extrication of fixed air; this, however, when solution of pure potass, or soap lees, or prepared soda, cannot be obtained, is preferable to the free exhibition of linseed-tea, as proposed by Orfila.

† We find that, to neutralise half an ounce of the oxalic acid by lime-water, no less a quantity of it than ten pints is necessary. If it were not for the small quantity of lime the water holds in solution, it would be the best article to employ in cases of a poisonous dose of the oxalic, or the sulphuric acid, being taken into the stomach; the lime, on combining with either, forming a precipitate which is insoluble in water, or in the contents of the stomach.

class of practitioners in this country, like the legitimate physicians, whose minds are well stored with classic lore, who are so satisfied with their stock of knowledge, as to consider it a great waste of time, or to derogate from their dignity, to read the periodical works on medicine, or to attend to the improvements of their contemporaries. We do not mean to insinuate, that either Mr. Hebb, senr. or Mr. Hebb, junr. is of this class: but this we say, that the practitioner, however high he may rank in the medical world, who neglects the new suggestions or improvements that may be made, even by men who are not known beyond the sphere of their own practice, is deserving the severest censure. Mr. Hebb, junr. examined the body of the unfortunate man about ten hours after death, in the presence of *several* medical gentlemen. It is a common practice with some practitioners to pay their medical friends the compliment of requiring their attendance when they open the body of a patient, who had died under their care; it would, however, in our opinion, be more rational, if not more complimentary to the friends of the patients, and certainly more likely to prove beneficial to their unfortunate patients, if they were to request such attendance when the case of a patient is attended with unfavourable symptoms. The appearances the internal surface of the stomach and intestines exhibited, were such as a *surgeon* would expect to find, on a person who had taken half an ounce of so powerful a poison. The inflammation had not only extended to the membranous covering of the stomach and intestines, but also to the membranous lining of the windpipe and the lungs. The pelvis of the kidneys were also inflamed, but the *liver and gall-bladder were in a healthy state.*

The only part of the case which Mr. Hebb, junr. considers "remarkable" is, that during the whole of the time the patient "had no uneasiness whatever in his throat or fauces, (the internal surface of which appeared, on inspection, as if they had been scalded,) and not having complained of pain in the abdomen till six hours after he had swallowed the poison." The copious thin black offensive evacuations from the intestines are, in our opinion, most worthy of notice, inasmuch as they prove that the action of an acrid article is capable of producing morbid faecal secretions from the internal surface of the colon; for the liver and gall-bladder being healthy, the evacuations could not be deemed "*morbid biliary motions.*" The fact also proves, that the appearance of the motions is not a certain indication, as stated by Mr. Abernethy, of the condition of the liver.

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## SURGERY.

### RETENTION OF URINE.

Mr. Thompson, in an article on puncturing the bladder in cases of retention of urine, briefly notices a case of retention of urine from an accident, in which he introduced the catheter with great facility, after keeping the patient in a warm bath eight hours.

Three surgeons had, previously to the use of the warm bath, made several ineffectual attempts to introduce this instrument. The

result of the use of the warm bath for so long a time, shews the absurdity of a common practice at Hospitals of ordering a patient, with such a complaint, or with intussusception, or strangulated rupture, to be put into the warm bath for fifteen or twenty minutes, and of abandoning the remedy if the use of it, two or three times for so short a period, should not succeed.

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## MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

### SNUFF.

Dr. Kinglake, of Taunton, has discovered that the practice of "snuff-taking" is the "most baneful that *popular* custom and familiarity have sanctioned as innoxious and gratifying." Supposing "it has rarely occurred to those who use snuff, even most largely, that it is an agent possessing qualities that cannot fail to prove highly deleterious to the *healthy* tone and energy of the stomach;" he has, from the most benevolent motives, published a few remarks on the "poisonous properties of tobacco, and its injurious effects on the stomach, &c." He commences with the most important information that snuff is powdered tobacco leaves, or, as he elegantly terms it, "*comminuted divisions of tobacco*," and that a portion of the comminuted divisions, when snuffed up the nostrils, passes down the posterior part of the palate, not only into the stomach, but also into the windpipe. where it is capable of *exciting* the most distressing organic diseases. "Many instances," says the doctor, "have fallen under my notice, and more occurred to my *reflection*, of but little short of mortal injury having occurred, from a profuse and an incautiously violent mode of forcing snuff through the nostrils into the gullet and stomach. Morbid changes in the structure of the posterior fauces, and in different portions of the gullet, occasioning diseased contraction of that tube, have been justly referable to the distempering influence of tobacco." "The worst cases of indigestion and of mesenteric atrophy," proceeds the doctor, "have been reasonably supposed to have originated from excessive chewing and smoking, as well as snuffing, of tobacco, in which a *negative* remedy has been found in the discontinuance of the practice." The doctor has also discovered, that this "uncleanly practice occasionally distemps the *healthy* action of the mucous membrane of the nostrils, producing excoriations, polypous excrescences, and even ill-conditioned sores that may assume *irrestrainable* extension and character of cancerous virulence." The doctor also thinks, "there is much reason for believing that the *ever-memorable* Napoleon Bonaparte derived the cause of his protracted sufferings and eventual death, from the large quantities of snuff which he lavishly but unconsciously carried into the stomach, through the nostrils, by the habit of *strong* and *unmeasured inspirations*, with which he used that *destructive* agent. The obscured appearance of the stomach on inspection *after* death, termed *cancerous*, were," says the doctor, "of an *highly inflamed, much thickened, and extensive ulcerated surface*, such as were very likely to have been induced by the *noxious* influence of

tobacco, almost incessantly supplied by the *frequent, abundant, and forcible* manner in which that illustrious personage was notoriously known to take that powdered article." Napoleon's principal medical friend gave the same opinion. The doctor boldly asserts, that "in the whole tribe of *narcotic* vegetables, perhaps there is not one that would derange the healthy state of the stomach more *deeply* and *seriously* than tobacco, not even deadly nightshade, aconite, hemlock, laurel, &c." He has discovered that "the stomach can no more decompose powdered tobacco, so as to render it comparatively harmless, than it can deadly nightshade, hemlock, or any other vegetable poison; and that its *direct* influence on the stomach is, in a high degree, enervating, by which that organ is incapacitated for a healthy secretion of the gastric fluid, and for exerting the vital energy that is requirable for performing its functions:—loss of appetite, distressing sickness, gastric oppression, praecordial anxiety, acetous fermentation, flatulent distension, and healthy langour, are among," says he, "the direct effects of admitting snuff into the stomach." Although he attributes the baneful effects of snuff to its *narcotic* quality, he observes, "what vital function can preserve its healthy state amidst such overwhelming affection of gastric excitability !!!" So it appears, although a powerful narcotic, it is capable of stimulating the stomach, so as to increase its excitability !!! Whatever effects Dr. Kinglake may have experienced or witnessed in his practice from the use of snuff, we have heard many old women, and even intelligent experienced physicians say, that they have found a pinch of snuff to produce a very cordial effect, and instead of enervating the stomach, to invigorate it, so as to promote digestion; and as to its power of producing diseases of *inflammatory* excitement in the stomach and gullet, being a narcotic, it is surely more likely to prevent such diseases, and even when they have taken place, to check their progress. If tobacco be capable of "exerting such baneful influence on the stomach and gullet," as the observant doctor has noticed, one would suppose, that chewers of it would be more particularly subject to the formidable diseases the doctor has enumerated, inasmuch as more of the pernicious part of the article is conveyed into the stomach in one day, than in that of the greatest snuff-taker in a week. The diseases which the doctor attributes to the *narcotic* operation of tobacco, are the consequences of long continued morbid irritation from stimulating diet, abuse of vinous or spirituous liquors; and we are inclined to believe, that the use of snuff, by keeping down irritation, is more likely to prevent such diseases than to occasion them. We are satisfied, from long and repeated observation, that a nervous or irritable person, whether an old woman or physician, who has been *accustomed* to its use many years, cannot discontinue it with impunity. From the proximity of the membrane of the nostrils to the brain, a pinch of snuff will often allay cerebral excitement in those who have accustomed themselves to it, and will even diminish the determination of blood to the brain by reducing irritation, a common cause of *overdistension* of its blood-vessels.

(To be continued.)

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 110.]

To FEBRUARY 1, 1825.

[VOL. X.

## PHYSIC.

### DROPSY AND ORGANIC DISEASES.

Mr. VENABLES, of Henley, whose public lecture on the means of counteracting the poisonous effects of the oxalic acid in the stomach, we have noticed in our 9th vol. p. 397, has lately favoured the medical world with Clinical reports and practical observations on dropsies; the professed object of which is, to elucidate their pathology, and establish a more scientific mode of treatment; to which he has added a concise *theoretical* dissertation on the causes, progress, and treatment of organic diseases in general.

Although only a bachelor in medicine, of the University of Oxford, the author styles himself a *physician*; and, no doubt, by education and profound knowledge of natural philosophy, he has as just a right to the distinction, as many of those who have taken the degree of M.D. at the same *celebrated* school of medicine and natural philosophy, who are now flourishing away in this metropolis as Fellows of a royal college of physicians, and as *extraordinary* or *ordinary* physicians. The governors of the Henley Dispensary, it seems, have elected the bachelor, *physician* to the dispensary; and the parish has given him the important appointment of *consulting physician* to the poor house, i.e. to superintend and regulate the practice of the medical officers in ordinary—Messrs. Jeston, Brookes, sen. and jun., &c. &c. For the sake of the poor patients of these establishments, we hope this *bachelor* in medicine has made himself *master* of the healing art, by a residence at a *proper* medical school, so as to be competent to the important offices he has undertaken. The principal intention of the author in publishing his *Clinical* reports, being to illustrate what he supposes to be a *modern* discovery in medicine, viz. bleeding in dropsy (lately recommended by Dr. Blackall and Dr. Frampton), the work, from a graduate of Oxford, where the doctrines of the antients are held sacred, and where the discoveries of the moderns are treated with contempt, although dressed in the antient language of *Rome*, is indeed, in these times, something novel.

Abstraction of blood in cases of dropsy, is a practice so diametrically opposite to that of the most respectable antient and modern writers, that had an apothecary first adopted it, and the patient had not recovered, all the Fellows of the College of physicians would readily have given their evidence of mal-treatment, in case of his being prosecuted on the score of ignorance. It was deemed highly improper to allow a dropsical patient to take any thing in the form of a liquid, till the late Dr. Millman, by accident, discovered that the free use of a liquid absolutely proved beneficial, by promoting the operation of diuretic medicines. Some practitioners, whose minds are engaged in theorising on hypotheses, instead of accumulating facts,

fancy Dr. Blackall has thrown much additional light on the nature of dropsy; but the diseases in which Dr. Blackall employed the lancet, were accumulations of serum, from increased arterial action. They were, in fact, secondary and not primary affections, and not the diseases described by Cullen, and other nosological writers, under the heads, *anasarca*, (effusion of serum in the cellular substance) *ascites*, (dropsy of the belly) and *hydrothorax*, (dropsy of the chest,) which are accompanied with a state of body termed the *hydropic habit*. In the nosology of Cullen and other writers, dropsies are enumerated as genera of an order of the class of *seacheriae*, i. e. attended with a depraved state of the whole or of the greater part of the body, without *primary febrile* or *nervous* disease; and to this class, we presume, no medical practitioner, whether bachelor or doctor in medicine, ordinary or consulting physician, acquainted with the characteristic symptoms of disease, will assign the cases which Dr. Blackall, Dr. Frampton, and Bachelor Venables term dropsy. The rapid progress of chemistry, and discoveries in physiology, have, in fact, rendered physic mad; and what with pretended discoveries in the therapeutics, and the various theories that prevail, a patient may consider himself most fortunate if he falls under the care of a rational practitioner. When a new theory of a disease is broached by a practitioner of any weight in the profession, such is the imperfect state of the healing art, that the founder is certain of having plenty of converts; and those, however rare the disease may be, are never at a loss for cases to put it to the test of experience; and as nothing is more easy than to make medical facts bend to pre-conceived hypotheses, and to fancy favourable results, the new theory, like other fashions, will run a certain course. Dr. Meade fancied he had discovered an infallible preventive of hydrophobia after the bite of a mad dog; and in the course of a few months he met with some hundreds of cases in his own practice, to give it a trial, in all of which it, of course, succeeded. The converts to the theory of Mr. Abernethy, (a fortunate one for the legitimate tribe of physicians, and those practitioners who make a trade of their profession) can, most satisfactorily to themselves, trace every disease, acute and chronic, to some disordered condition of the liver; the sovereign remedy for which is mercury, either in the form of blue pill or calomel. The surgeons who confine their practice to diseases of the urethra and rectum, attribute all chronic disorders of the stomach, to some morbid state, either of the urethra or rectum; and if a patient, with a simple affection of the stomach, should consent to an examination by a bougie, or otherwise, the opinion of the surgeon will be confirmed; and fortunate will he be, if, after remaining under his care some months, he escapes free from some organic disease in the parts, or with a sound mind; we say a *sound* mind, because we have known many patients rendered miserable by the *idea* of the existence of a *stricture* their surgeons had given them, although entirely free from any symptom of the disease. A most learned physician of the legitimate class, who had written on the watery head, saw nothing but the disease in all his patients under seven years of age, many of whom were, no doubt, hurried to the grave by salivation: and another learned physician, who had devoted some time to the

investigation, as he termed it, of the causes and nature of diabetes, generally insisted on the attending nurse tasting the urine of his patients, in order to ascertain if it contained saccharine matter, although they had no symptom of the disease; and in case it had a sweet taste, although the secretion was small, the disease was termed, with the consequential dogmatism, peculiar to this tribe, *diabetes mellitus*; and as to the physicians, who pretend to profess a superior knowledge of disease of the mind, termed by the vulgar, mad doctors, (a distinction to which one-half of them are justly entitled) if the opinion of the most experienced of them was to be taken of a promiscuous party of one hundred people, after a private examination, we have no hesitation in saying that he would declare ninety-nine insane. Such is the state of medicine, in the metropolis of the most enlightened country of enlightened Europe!!

Dr. Blackall and Dr. Frampton have published several cases of accumulations of serum, in which bleeding proved very beneficial; and Bachelor Venables reports twenty-one cases, "confirmatory" as he supposes, of their theories. Of all the bachelor's cases, we cannot discover one which, according to Cullen's definition and nosological arrangement, was true dropsy.

No practitioner, acquainted with surgery, would term the *phlegmasia dolens*, although the swelling of the limb is principally produced by the effusion of serum in the cellular substance, a case of dropsy. The edematous swelling of the lower extremities, from the mechanical effects of an impregnated womb, although the quantity of effused serum is as great as in true anasarca, is not considered dropsical. The edematous enlargement of a limb, from lymphatic inflammation; occasioned by the bite or sting of a venomous animal, (a very common occurrence), is surely not a case of dropsy, although the effusion of serum in the cellular substance is as great as in dropsy (anasarca). True dropsy, when not the consequence of excessive or repeated bleeding, is a disease which advances very slowly, sometimes so gradually as not to exhibit all the characteristic symptoms for five or six years. In cases of simple inflammatory fever, and in scarlet fever and erysipelas especially, it is not uncommon for the cellular membrane, immediately under the skin of the whole body, to be loaded with serum; but such instances are not denominated dropsy; the constitution being diametrically opposite to that termed hydropic or leucophlegmatic—the action of the heart and arterics being increased—the proportion of the coagulum to the serum in the blood, being preternaturally great—and the sanguiferous system plethoric. The accumulation of serum in such cases, is the consequence of increased action of the exhalent extremities of arteries, and does not even indicate a predisposition in the system to dropsy, or the hydropic habit. That an excessive effusion of serum should take place during the same fever, in one constitution and not in another, although apparently similar, has been a matter of astonishment with some practitioners; but whoever considers that the body is constituted of several systems, and that in the most healthy, one is generally more irritable or delicate than the others, cannot be surprised that a general febrile disorder should operate more on one system of the body than on another.

Hence, in cases of epidemic fever, the cerebral or nervous system, is in some most affected; in others, the sanguiferous system; in others, the lymphatic system; and in others, the muscular system: and when the exhalent extremities of arteries are preternaturally irritable, we may expect an increased secretion of serum; and it is worthy of notice, that during inflammatory fever, the absorbent system is in a sluggish state, favouring the accumulation of serum. If such effusions of serum are to be considered cases of dropsy, it is clear they cannot belong to the order of the cachectic class of diseases, viz.—*without fever, independent of any other disease, and occurring in a leucophlegmatic or hydropic habit*; and as the state of constitution, and the causes of the effusion, are diametrically opposite to those of dropsy, they should be distinguished by some adjective, expressive of their nature, &c., in order to induce inexperienced practitioners properly to distinguish the one in which bleeding, purging, and general antiphlogistic treatment is proper, from the genera of Cullen and other nosological writers, in which the treatment would prove highly injurious. The hydropic habit and dropsical swellings of the lower extremities being common consequences of excessive bleeding, it must appear clear that abstraction of blood cannot be applicable to dropsical diseases in general.

We have so far digressed from the analysis of Bachelor Venables' *Clinical reports*, with the view of making a distinction between accumulation of serum from increased arterial action and dropsy from diminished arterial action and general debility. If diseases be not clearly defined by symptoms, and the definitions of the different genera and species, be observed by practitioners, certain it is we shall never succeed in establishing a system of medicine worthy of the implicit confidence of the public. All the cases Bachelor Venables has noticed were attended with general fever and increased arterial action, and the blood which was abstracted exhibited an excess of coagulum. Surely, in such cases, it is ridiculous to say that the remedies which reduced fever and the morbid arterial action, succeeded in curing dropsy. The treatment was in fact adopted to quiet the disturbed state of the system, in which the accumulation was a mere accidental occurrence; and it is still more ridiculous to boast of having cured such cases of dropsy, without the use of a diuretic medicine, which every practitioner, we presume, will admit to be an indispensable auxiliary to tonics in cases of real dropsy. Bachelor Venables having, in his preface, referred his readers to the fourteenth case, because "He thinks no one can read it attentively, without acknowledging that the history throws considerable light on the nature of dropsy," we shall commence with it, and in order that it may have its proper influence on the minds of our readers, we shall give it in his own words.

" Dispensary, Nov. 12, 1823. Sarah Burgess, aged 45, a cook, applied labouring under general dropsy, with severe anasarca. The extremities, both upper and lower, were swelled to an enormous size, and also the integuments of the face and abdomen. The distension so great, that the skin seems as if bursting; and on pressure, from this circumstance, the parts *pit but little*. The tension

so great, that the *slightest* pressure produces *intolerable* pain. Great difficulty of breathing; the temperature of the surface elevated; pulse small, *hard*, and frequent (98); but the difficulty of ascertaining the state of the pulse, from the great distention of the cellular membrane, renders any observations upon this symptom extremely *equivocal*. The abdomen was very much distended; and, on percussion, fluctuation was distinctly perceived. The urine scanty; the bowels torpid; tongue foul, dry, and furred.

"This woman had been afflicted with dropsy several times before; had been in several of the London hospitals on this account, and was never wholly free from some degree of the disease."

"An electuary, composed of the compound powder of jalap, was this day directed to be taken, in small and repeated doses."

"On the 14th. At Dispensary hour, this woman's sister attended, and stated that the patient was so ill as to be confined to bed, and therefore was unable to attend. On visiting her, I found her complaining of severe gripping pain of the abdomen. There was also pain of the abdomen increased on pressure, straining, tenesmus, and an inability to pass any natural alvine evacuations. There was a constant desire of going to stool, but nothing was voided, except mucus, tinged with blood.\* The urine, which was voided in very small quantity, on exposure to an elevated temperature, became a rough, *riscid coagulum*, scarcely a single drop remaining fluid. The same phenomenon took place on the addition of nitric acid. Indeed, the urine had a peculiar, thick, gelatinous appearance, which led me confidently to anticipate coagulation on the application of heat."

Bachelor Venables ordered ten ounces of blood to be taken from a vein, and a mixture of castor oil to be administered to quiet the bowels. The surgeon (Mr. Jeaston) not succeeding in opening a vein, although he made an attempt in both arms, "in consequence of the distention of the cellular membrane with the *dropsical* fluid," (a circumstance which of course the Bachelor could not have foreseen), "twelve leeches were directed to be applied to the abdomen, and a dose of Dover's powder ordered to be taken at bed-time. "The *leeches*," he says, "bled freely," and, on the following day, the Bachelor thought the size of the belly was diminished, but the *fever* and *gripping pains* continued. On the 17th the gripping pains still existed, the tenderness on pressure increased, and the *dropsical* symptoms undiminished, which the Bachelor attributed to her having imprudently taken wine. He now ordered ten ounces of blood to be abstracted by cupping, and the castor oil mixture to be repeated. On the 18th the Bachelor was informed that the *operator* could not obtain the quantity of blood he had ordered to be abstracted, in consequence of the *dropsical* fluid flowing from the *scarrifications*; (would this have been the case if the *scarrificators* had not penetrated the cellular substance?) The gripping and tenderness continued,

\* "This bowel affection went through the whole of the family in which she lived as cook, and of which the master himself, a very respectable elderly gentleman, died, after a very tedious, lingering, and protracted illness."

and every description of aliment or drink passed unaltered through the bowels almost immediately after their introduction into the stomach"!!! (Symptoms of active inflammation in the substance of the intestinal tube.) The fever had abated, and the *dropsical* swelling somewhat diminished. The Bachelor ordered six grains of rhubarb and three grains of Dover's powder to be taken three times a day, two grains of extract of henbane at night, and a blistering plaster to be applied over the bowels. On the 20th the bowels were still *much affected*, but the *dropsical* swelling of the upper extremities especially had diminished. The Bachelor's numerous engagements prevented his seeing the patient till the 26th, when he found the upper extremities free from *dropsy*. The pulse being *hard*, the bowels tender, with symptoms of dysentery, and the fever continuing, he ordered eight ounces of blood to be abstracted. "The *coagulum* of the blood, on separating," he says, "was *cupped*, *buffed*, *solid*, and *very hard*, the blood *generally* highly inflamed, the *fever* abated," and although the tenderness of bowels had diminished, a considerable degree of irritation existed in them. The Bachelor now ordered *half a drachm* of the *tincture* of henbane to be administered in starch, clysterwise. On the 1st of December he found the patient much worse, the fever and affection of the bowels having increased. The pulse being *hard* and *frequent*, he ordered her to be bled to the extent of eight ounces, and six grains of the compound powder of chalk with opium to be exhibited *twice* a day; the blood was *buffy*. On the 4th, *all* the *symptoms* were relieved, and a little of the urine, on exposure to heat, became *milky* but *not solid*. After this time the *inflammatory symptoms* continued to abate. On the 30th the Bachelor prescribed a watery solution of tartarised iron, and an aperient pill to act occasionally on the bowels. In his practical remarks on this case, he states there was rather a *severe* degree of fever observable from the first, and as far as the *circumstances* of the patient would admit of judging, a *hard*, *wiry*, and *accelerated* pulse; and these, says he, were the *principal* symptoms! Her occupation, he adds, as a cook, *frequently* exposed her to *extremes* of temperature; these exposures, in his opinion, increased the *inflammatory tendencies* of the *system*, and possibly at last *superinduced* the *febrile* excitement; "and this excitement," continues the Bachelor, "produced the *dropsy*, and probably also aggravated the *intestinal* irritation when it came on"!! In a note he states that the irritation (the affection of the bowels) spread through the whole family, and proved fatal to the master of it, and probably depended on *some local* peculiarity of the atmosphere!! It however excited *dropsy* in his dispensary patients. The *extraordinary* coagulability of the urine, he says, determined him to have recourse to bleeding, notwithstanding the apparently hopeless condition of the patient, and the *obscurity* of the pulse as a guide. The coagulability of the urine is particularly noticed by Dr. Blackall, as an indication of the use of the lancet, in *his* work on *dropsy*.

Bachelor Venables concludes his *practical* or *Clinical* observations on this case, by directing the attention of his readers to what he considers another remarkable part in its history, viz. the cure of so

severe and unusual a degree of dropsy, without the assistance of diuretics!! Although the learned Bachelor in medicine admits that the fever, or what he terms the febrile excitement of the system, was the consequence of the dysenteric affection of the bowels, occasioned by some local peculiarity of the atmosphere, or that the accumulating serum in the cellular substance was the consequence of it, he terms the complaint dropsy; and although the remedies were evidently employed, and very judiciously so, to reduce the general inflammatory excitement and the dysenteric affection, he has published it as a case of dropsy; to illustrate the advantages of bleeding without the use of a diuretic in that disease. In Oxford, where even the rudiments of medicine are not taught, it may pass as a case of dropsy, but will a graduate of a proper school of medicine, or a surgeon of experience and observation, say it was a case of dropsy according to Cullen's definition of the disease? At any rate it cannot be a genus of an order of the class *Cachexia*. If the accumulation of serum had been the consequence of debility from previous febrile excitement, it might with propriety be termed a case of dropsy; but as it took place during the febrile excitement, and gradually disappeared with the febrile symptoms, we cannot consider it a case of true dropsy.

We shall now proceed to notice an affection of the chest, which this Oxford Bachelor in Medicine represents as the severest case of dropsy of the chest he has witnessed.

“Frances Avery, aged 47, a thin, poor, spare-looking woman.—Dispensary.

“September 10, 1823. Complains of a most severe and distressing difficulty of breathing; ‘can scarcely get her breath;’ any exercise, such as merely walking across the room, creates such a degree of difficulty of breathing, that she gasps and catches for air; violent fits of coughing follow, which last for ten or fifteen minutes; orthopnoea (a very quick and laborious breathing, requiring an erect posture); the face flushes and becomes purple, the lips assume a livid hue, and the whole countenance indicates the greatest distress. The skin feels hot, dry, and rough to the touch; the pulse quick, irregular, hard, and slow; only fifty beats in the minute. The bowels constipated; the urine scanty and high-coloured, and on settling deposits a sediment; does not coagulate on the application of heat; tongue foul, and covered with a yellow fur; the abdomen swollen, and on percussion, fluctuation distinctly perceived. Anasarca of the ankles, with pitting on pressure.”

The Bachelor ordered ten ounces of blood to be abstracted, the bowels to be opened by the compound colocynth pill (six grains), and one of the following pills to be taken twice a day.

Take of Foxglove, in powder, 12 grains.

Antimonial powder, 20 grains.

Ipecacuan powder, 10 grains.

Mix, and with the aromatic confection form a mass, and divide into twelve pills.

Although the blood exhibited signs of inflammatory action, and the aperient pills had succeeded in regulating the bowels, she was

no better on the 12th. Her nights had been restless, and she complained of palpitation of the heart, frequent attacks of night-mare, with a starting from sleep. The Bachelor now ordered ten leeches to be applied over the breast-bone, and after the punctures had ceased to bleed, a blister. On the 17th, the difficulty of breathing and cough were less violent, but the restlessness and palpitation had very slightly abated. In addition to the other medicines, he ordered three grains of extract of henbane to be taken at bed-time. On the 19th, all the symptoms had abated. The faeces being somewhat dark, he ordered the following pills.

Take of prepared Calomel, 6 grains:

Foxglove, in powder, 10 grains.

Extract of Henbane, 8 grains.

To be divided into twelve pills, one to be taken night and morning.

On the 24th, she complained of an increase of the difficulty of breathing; the symptoms were, however, generally improved; she could now lie down nearly in a recumbent posture. He ordered another blister to be applied over the breast-bone. On the 26th, all the symptoms rapidly disappearing, the abdomen decreased in size, the urine plentiful; the fever and pectoral symptoms very much abated. On the 3d of October, "all the symptoms being completely relieved;" he ordered a wine-glassful of the following mixture, to be taken three times a day, to strengthen the system.

Take of Infusion of Cascarilla, 8 ounces.

Infusion of Foxglove, 2 ounces.—Mix.

The patient did not appear at the dispensary again till the 20th, when she complained of a return of the symptoms; she had then fever, with a hard pulse, and paucity of urine. He ordered her to be bled, and twelve grains of the following composition to be administered three times a day.

Take of Cream of Tartar, 2 drachms.

Jalap powder, 2 scruples.—Mix.

When she applied on the 27th, (the powder having purged very much, and the urine not quite so plentiful), he ordered an electuary of cream of tartar, jalap, and gum kino. This composition she continued to take for a fortnight, when, says the Bachelor, through an imprudent exposure to cold when washing, she was again attacked with acute febrile symptoms, which threatened a return of all her former distress. He directed eight ounces of blood to be abstracted, and the electuary to be repeated. After this she became convalescent, and was discharged on the 24th of November cured.

Although he states the blood, which was taken from a vein on the 12th of September, exhibited signs of inflammatory action, he concludes his history of the cure with the following remarks: "the blood drawn from the patient did not buff in any instance!!" If this was a case of dropsy of the chest, (hydrothorax), all we can say, it was not the disease, Cullen and other nosological writers, have described under that name. Although hydrothorax is a genus of disease that has what is termed a pathognomonic, or characteristic symptom, viz. a sudden sense of suffocation on lying down, in consequence of the pressure of the accumulated serum on the tracheal

and bronchial vessels, the learned Bachelor in Medicine has omitted to notice it in his narrative of the symptoms, and does not even notice her having experienced a sense of fluctuation within the chest. The fits of coughing being violent, the face flushed, the skin hot and dry, the pulse quick and hard; the gentle exercise of walking across the room occasioning a most distressing difficulty of breathing, the urine high-coloured, depositing a sediment on standing, the blood exhibiting signs of inflammatory action, the disease returning in consequence of an "imprudent exposure to cold," and the effects of the remedies the Oxford Bachelor in Medicine prescribed, dispose us to consider it a case of peripneumonia notha (spurious inflammation of the lungs), and we think, after reading the case attentively, our medical readers will coincide with us in this opinion. In this disease the treatment was certainly very judicious, but had it been the true hydrothorax of Cullen, and other medical authors, we could not say as much in its favour, the two diseases requiring very opposite remedies.

In his *practical* remarks on this case, the learned Bachelor observes, "It often happens, when the quantity of blood is such as to oppress the heart, or there is such pulmonary obstruction as to impede the circulation through these organs, the pulse, which is unusually slow, after bleeding, rises and acquires a much greater frequency. In the case above noticed, he says he is inclined to think the lungs were in that morbid condition which Laennec has termed *pulmonary apoplexy*." So it appears that, although he has termed the case hydrothorax (dropsy of the chest), the difficulty of breathing was not produced by the accumulated serum, but by congestion of blood vessels paralysing the lungs!!! The name given by Laennec to difficulty of breathing from an overloaded state of the blood vessels, is ridiculous, for the heart is more affected by it than the lungs, an increased action of it being necessary to transmit blood through the pulmonary arteries. By the term apoplexy, is understood diminution of nervous energy from compression, and in such cases the difficulty of breathing is not occasioned by the mechanical effects of the distended blood vessels on nerves. If the lungs were in an apoplectic state, how can the learned Bachelor account for the high degree of irritation which existed in them? Although, says he, "Spitting of blood (hæmoptoe) is a general attendant on this condition of the lungs; yet I question it to be an absolutely *necessary consequence*." This is the first time we have heard of spitting of blood being a general attendant on dropsy of the chest. We have met with some hundred cases, in our hospital and private practice, and we never met with one attended with spitting of blood, nor is it noticed as an attendant on the disease by any medical writer.

When this patient, Frances Avery, experienced a return of her supposed dropsy of the chest, in July, 1824, the learned author notices, in the enumeration of symptoms, a *peculiar* hoarseness, which, he says "is sufficient evidence of the cause of the complaint." In what respect, however, *peculiar* as the hoarseness might have been, it could afford sufficient evidence of the cause of *hydrothorax*, we are at a loss to conjecture. It is, in our humble opinion, strong

evidence of the complaint having been inflammatory, and not hydropic. Although the first complaint required frequent repetition of blood-letting and blistering, to establish any thing like permanent relief, it was, in the Bachelor's opinion, so clear a case of dropsy of the chest, that he observes, "Surely it could not be to the want of diuretics, nor to a diminished secretion of urine, that the aggravation of symptoms, which *occasionally* took place, should be attributed"!! The *increase* of the symptoms, says he, was usually attended with *fever*, which proved a *stimulus* to the *heart*, and excited an inordinate action. The *impermeability* of the pulmonary *tissue* to the blood, propelled with *unusual* velocity, no doubt contributed much to the difficulty of breathing, cough, and *other kinds* of pectoral distress experienced in this case"!! This is indeed a very pretty specimen of Oxford medical logic, if not of classical English. Although the case is published to illustrate the good effects of bleeding in dropsy of the chest, pectoral distress, he says, was not produced by the effused serum, but by the *effects* of the fever, in consequence of stimulating the heart, and exciting an inordinate action, &c. &c. !!!

The remaining nineteen cases being similar to the two we have given in detail, we think it unnecessary to occupy more of our work by noticing them. The two we have given will satisfy our medical readers that Bachelor Venables's Reports, although *Clinical*, throw no light whatever on the nature or treatment of true dropsy, and we trust the publication of the cases will not lead to the maltreatment of true dropsy by inexperienced practitioners, or that class of the profession for which he says he has published his *Clinical* reports, viz. those in the same humble circumstances as himself, who do "not hesitate to follow an example which, in superior ability, they would absolutely despair even to imitate"!! Now, good and most modest Bachelor in Medicine, is it not in such hands, works on obscure theories, where the disease is not clearly defined, are likely to prove most mischievous? The learned Bachelor having stated in his preface that he has a more extended work on dropsy in the press, we beg to hint to him the propriety of an addition of an adjective to *his genera* of dropsy, in order that practitioners may distinguish those in which his treatment may prove beneficial, from the true cases of dropsy in which it would prove highly injurious. If the accumulation of serum, taking place during a general febrile disorder of the system, accompanied with local inflammatory action, and occurring in a habit opposite to the hydropic, is to be raised to the rank of a *primary disease*, it should not only be distinguished by a name expressive of its nature, but a proper place assigned it in the leading nosology; for the cases of dropsy he has described assuredly cannot belong to a class of cachectic or leucophlegmatic diseases.

The assertion, that "the precepts of Dr. Cullen, and the authority of his *well-earned* reputation, in establishing a doctrine of fever in which *debility* is looked upon as the *principal* source of the phenomena, have led the profession to adopt *principles* of treatment, which are not only erroneous, but *highly injurious*," shews that if the learned Bachelor in Oxford Medicine has condescended to read the

professor's theory of fevers, he did not understand it, because in no part of his work has he broached such a ridiculous doctrine, and if he had entertained such an opinion, he would certainly have founded his treatment of fevers on it. Professor Cullen, unlike his contemporaries, theorised only on well-established facts, and not on slighty hypotheses. The assertion, that measles and small pox are considered by the profession diseases of debility, is no less erroneous. Every apothecary, even the one whose ignorance he has recorded,\* knows that these diseases are communicated by specific contagions, and that their effects are increased and not diminished action, and that their secondary effects on the vital powers depend on the constitutions of the patients—on the healthy having no debilitating effect.

The Bachelor's *theory and treatment of organic diseases in general, (a most important subject)*, we shall notice in our next number.

### GOOUT.

GENTLEMEN.—Though I constantly search every fresh number of the *Gazette of Health*, for a cure of hereditary gout; yet, as I am past sixty, and have been subject to it for years, I do not expect to find one; all I expect is alleviation. If you think the following private practice, which is my own, worth inserting, you will do it.

Having been free from gout nine months, I have lately had rather a sudden and a severe attack, with a good deal of inflammation, considerable swelling, and acute pain in my left hand and wrist, in the hand-joints of the fingers, and in the hand-joint of the thumb; so as to render my hand useless.

As is usual with me, I anointed the hand and wrist six or seven times a day, or *ad libitum*, with olive oil, by means of a camel's-hair flat varnish-brush—covering them with linen (called rags)—or, in preference, lightly rolling round them an old, soft, thin handkerchief, as I cannot bear the touch of flannel to the inflamed skin—constantly keeping the hand and arm out of bed night and day—taking care to have the arm and shoulder sufficiently covered with flannel to be comfortably warm. By this, although I have been nearly confined to my bed above a week, I have not had one night, in which I did not get five or six hours uninterrupted sleep. The sensations I experience

\* In his preface the Bachelor accuses a neighbouring apothecary of ignorance, for having overlooked a husk of a small seed, which "was imbedded in the *lucid cornea*;" for the removal of which the Bachelor admits he called in the able assistance of Mr. Jeston, who with the head of a probe performed the operation in *fifteen seconds*!! This husklike extraneous body, he adds, he has placed among his collection as a *memento* of the ignorance of a neighbouring practitioner. To this "memento" the learned Bachelor's book of *Clinical reports* will be a very proper companion. We hope the surgeon who *operated* on this occasion will favour us with the particulars of the case, and account for such an article penetrating the conjunctive tunic so as to be imbedded in the *lucid cornea*!!

are, the oil cools the skin, softens it, and allows it to stretch with greater ease and facility. I think the coating, or covering of the oil, prevents the oxygen of the atmosphere increasing the inflammation; for as the oil is imbibed, the skin gets dry, and the hand hot; the action of the air tells me a fresh application is wanting, and I apply it. If it is in the hand or wrist, I have a saucer, with a little oil, (not to spill) and the brush, upon the table by the bed-side, that if I wake in the night, and find the hand hot, I may use it. I have shortly afterwards gone to sleep, and slept until the morning.

When I have, which I several times have had, the gout in both feet at *once*, I adopt the same plan; sometimes covering them with linen, sometimes not—wearing a pair of large worsted stockings—having the bed-clothes turned up—the feet out of bed—and no covering but the stockings and the sheet lightly laid over them. And this I have done in the severest nights in winter. The effect has been such a mitigation of pain, that I have been able, two or three times in the night, insensibly to drop asleep; when, without this, I must have been roaring out. This I call air-bathing. I have never found that the *exposure* of either my hands or feet to the cold air of a winter's night, has ever given me the slightest cold, or any transmission of gout. I have found my hand at night so cool, easy, and with so little pain, that I have ventured to put it into bed, but have soon found, in five or ten minutes, the warmth and heat have renewed and increased the inflammation and pain, that I have been obliged to turn it out of bed for the night. When either the hands or feet will bear the warmth, heat, and pressure of the bed-clothes, this is the best thermometer for convalescence I have been able to discover. I then consider the paroxysm as over, and without the danger of a relapse. Perhaps you will say knit worsted stockings are as irritating as flannel, but they are not of so close a texture, and the interstices of the network (if I may so call it) allow of a freer circulation of air through them than thick flannel. Should any old gouty general, who has stood unmoved with the balls whizzing about his ears, be fearful of trying the experiment, he can wrap a piece of flannel, two or three times round the soft envelope of his hand, and he need not then be afraid, in retirement, of exposing his limbs. The sensation of cold *through* the oil is different to that of a frosty air, to the naked skin of the fingers and hand of the well-hand, it is not so pungent.

Should you think the above worth the notice of your many gouty readers, perhaps you will state your opinion for their advice—whether there is danger in exposing super-irritative gout, thus painted and dressed, to the cold of winter? Should you be against me, I shall fearlessly continue a plan I have long adopted.

Was it peremptory upon me to take one of the 300 diseases, which some persons would make us believe the human body is subject to, and they were placed in a drinking-glass as beads, I would put my hand into the glass and select the gout; as when I am free from that, I have neither rheumatism nor any other bodily complaint whatever, with great cheerfulness of spirits; nay, I can roar out, and laugh too. I am firmly of opinion with the Frenchman, that “crying and groaning” are amongst the best sedatives for pain in the extremities. If I was a

fanatic, I could then believe that God Almighty, out of mercy, sent the gout as a warning to man, and that all other diseases were inflicted by the devil, *out of spite*.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

January, 1825.

M—.

To the Editor of the *Gazette of Health*.

The practice which our respectable correspondent recommends, is, in our opinion, very likely to prove highly beneficial in the *local cases* of gout, he properly terms *super-irritative*; but in cases of languid, or what may be termed *unhealthy* gouty inflammation, attended with a disordered state of the stomach and bowels, or with determination of blood to the brain, the exposure of the part to cold air, although covered with oil, might prove injurious; the inflammatory action being, in such cases, very likely to take place in some part of the bowels or chest, on its being subdued in the extremities, by cold air. From the uniform very favourable results of our experience, with the application of a mixture of olive oil and sulphuric acid, (in the proportion of a drachm of the latter to two ounces of the former) we should certainly give it the preference to simple oil.

#### OF COSTIVENESS,

(Continued from page 12.)

*Treatment of Costiveness in Gouty Subjects.*—No class of invalids suffer more from sluggishness of bowels than gouty subjects. It is not only a frequent precursor of a paroxysm, but the cause of irregular, or atonic gouty pains in the bowels and extremities; and is generally attended with a disordered condition of the stomach—determination of blood to the head in plethoric subjects—and most distressing lowness of spirits, with a disturbed state of the whole nervous system. Mild aperient medicines are frequently prescribed by some practitioners, and often resorted to by gouty subjects, under the idea that gout is a disease of debility; and although they succeed in obviating costiveness, and in producing two or three extra evacuations daily, by nauseating the stomach and keeping up irritation in the small intestines (occasioning flatulence and grumbling of the bowels, termed *borborygmus*) they uniformly increase the debility of the system. Of this class, a common composition is, the flowers or milk of sulphur, magnesia, and ginger; which, by neutralising acid matter in the stomach, (which always, more or less, prevails in gouty subjects), and by promoting sensible and insensible perspiration, often succeeds in quieting or allaying the flying pains of irregular gout; but it never produces satisfactory alvine evacuations of feces, and by disordering the stomach and small intestines, induces general debility.

To the following composition, which is highly extolled by Dr. Scudamore, who has extended his *practical remarks* on gout to a guinea volume, the same objections may be made:

Take of Magnesia, fifteen grains;  
 Epsom Salt, a drachm and a half;  
 Vinegar of the Meadow Saffron, one drachm;  
 Cinnamon Water, ten drachms;  
 Extract of Liquorice, ten grains.—Mix.\*

The meadow saffron is unquestionably a valuable sedative, in what is properly termed super-irritative gout, i. e. gout with an excess of local irritation and febrile disorder of the whole system; but long experience has satisfied us that it should only be employed as a febrifuge, to allay excessive irritation, or in cases of violent attacks, where the brain and nervous system are much excited; and never, as is common practice, to terminate a paroxysm in a few hours, for such effect is not a cure, but a short suspension of the paroxysm, and if it be repeated on a recurrence of the disease, will convert a regular gout, or what may be termed *healthy* gout, into irregular or *unhealthy* gout, a malady which is attended with a long train of symptoms far more harassing than many formidable local diseases, that scarcely admit of palliation; the invalid being very rarely free, for the course of a day, from some distressing affection of the stomach, intestines, or brain, with a wretched state of mind. The addition of a powerful sedative to an aperient medicine, even in super-irritative gout, is bad, inasmuch as it is impossible to regulate its sedative effects during the operation of the purgative ingredients; and if the latter were to be excessive, which in irritable debilitated subjects is often the case, the sedative ingredient might induce a most dangerous degree of debility, or even terminate life. Another, no less serious objection is, that by reducing the energy of the stomach, the patient, after the operation of the purgative ingredients, suffers more or less from indigestion.

The two preceding compositions, like the Epsom salt, the saline aperient mineral waters, castor oil, and other *mild* or cooling aperients, by disordering the stomach and small intestines, interrupt the process of digestion, so as to reduce the vital powers of the system, whereas an active purgative medicine, by stimulating the stomach and intestines, and promoting the circulation through the viscera, invigorates the abdominal nerves, and, by purging, as it were, all the abdominal

\* This composition has been much condemned by some practitioners acquainted with chemistry, as unchemical; and it being generally supposed that vinegar not only extracts the medicinal virtues of the meadow-saffron root, but also corrects its acrimony, it certainly appears strange to add an article, as magnesia, to neutralise it; and the mixture being prescribed as a purgative, to employ one, as the cinnamon water, which is generally prescribed to check looseness. For a physician, who a few years since practised pharmacy, the prescription is a most extraordinary one. The remarks which have been made on the composition by some chemical writers, Dr. Paris, a Cambridge M. D., has thought proper to term ultra-chemistry, the *true* signification of which is, chemistry beyond his education, or to which the Cambridge school has not arrived. The Doctor, in defence of his friend, contends, that although to a chemist it may appear to be unchemical, it is, according to Cambridge medicine, *extra-scientific* !!!

viscera, promotes the alvine secretions, and carrying off the contents of the colon and rectum, (excrementitious secretion, the refuse of food, undigested food, and gas) instead of increasing or inducing debility, augments the strength of the whole body, by bringing the vital powers into action. The brain is relieved—the stomach invigorated—the whole muscular system strengthened—and the mind free from hypochondriacal fancies. In fact, an active purge rouses the vital powers—brings the viscera into action—and proves a cordial to the mind; whereas, the mild or cooling aperient medicines increase or induce debility, by disordering the stomach and small intestines, and occasioning the canal to be distended with gas.\*

A composition of the compound colocynth pill or extract with calomel, is a common formula for an active purge with practitioners in general, to empty the intestinal canal in cases of regular and irregular gout; and as an *occasional* active purgative it is no doubt a very valuable combination; but for a regular medicine, which most gouty subjects require once or twice a week, there are two objectionable articles, viz. the aloes and calomel. The rectum of gouty subjects being, in general, very irritable or tender, and consequently disposed to organic disease, a regular purgative medicine should be free from aloes; and as mercury, when it enters the constitution so as to disturb the nervous system, is very apt to disorder the whole body, it is an improper ingredient for a medicine which is to be taken regularly after intervals of a few days. The author of the new Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, has introduced the following formula of an active purging pill, under the name of "Compound pills of Elaterium.†

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\* We lately visited a gouty invalid, who, by the daily dose of a mild aperient medicine, (composed of Epsom salt, carbonate of magnesia, sulphur, and the wine of the meadow saffron) was in such a state of general debility, that he thought one evacuation from the bowels would terminate his life. His stomach and intestines were much distended by gas, attended with a distressing croaking noise; his countenance was much dejected—the extremities cold—and the pulse very low. We ordered a stimulating purgative medicine, and the following morning we found him engaged in his library. After the first evacuation the medicine produced, he evidently experienced an accession of strength, and such were the different effects of the mild and strong purgatives, that the evacuations produced by the former reduced his strength; whereas, after every motion by the latter, it increased, although much more copious. The motions were also different in appearance; those by the pills being throughout of the same consistence, attended with a considerable escape of gas, and emitting a strong feculant odour; whereas, those by the *mild, cooling* medicine, consisted of lumps and a very thin fluid, were scarcely flatulent, and the odour by no means strong. They were frequent, but small in quantity, one evacuation by the active pills being equal to ten by the mild aperient.

† The third edition, page 123.

Take of Extract of Elaterium, ten grains ;  
Cathartic Extract, two drachms ;  
Resin of Jalap,  
Castile Soap—of each one drachm.

Mix, and after forming a mass with a sufficient quantity of oil of juniper, divide into fifty pills ; the dose is from two to three pills occasionally. On this combination, the author makes the following observation : "This composition is much recommended by Dr. Bethell, an experienced and scientific physician of Brighton, as an active purgative in cases of gout and inflammatory excitement." The Doctor states that he has found the pills to allay gouty and inflammatory excitement more effectually than colchicum, or any other cathartic or sedative medicine, and, unlike colchicum, to improve the general health. They not only empty the intestinal canal, but also purge the viscera, and unload the cellular membrane of leucophlegmatic or dropsical habits, probably by increasing the secretion of urine. We have often prescribed these pills in cases of gout and rheumatism, and their effects have generally confirmed the high character Dr. Bethell has given them ; but, on account of the quantity of aloes which enters the composition of the cathartic extract, they are not a proper *regular* opening medicine. The composition recommended by Dr. Dick, an eminent physician of Calcutta, named the Bengal aperient pills (noticed in vol. I, pages 106—158, and vol. III, page 869) are preferable to the preceding combination, on account of being free from aloes and mercury, and at the same time equally efficacious as an intestinal, and, we may say, a general *visceral* purge. Dr. Dick says he not only found them to unload the liver more effectually than calomel and blue pill combined with the cathartic extract, but to empty the intestinal canal without irritating the rectum, and to leave the stomach in an improved state of health. By unloading the vessels of the brain, and promoting the circulation throughout the system, they tranquillize and strengthen the nervous system, which is more the seat of gout than any other system or part of the body.

No active purgative medicine, however, should be employed for weeks together, but only occasionally, i. e. when the state of the system, as overloaded bowels, inordinate determination of blood to the head, flatulence and flying gouty pains, indicate its use. If employed oftener than twice a week for a longer period than a month, it may, and probably will, produce mischief in some part of the intestinal canal, most likely in the colon or rectum. The costiveness of a gouty subject is seldom to be obviated by any particular regimen. The aperient diet we have recommended (page 1, No. 109) to overcome habitual constipation, very few gouty subjects can adopt with impunity : the articles not being easily converted into chyme by the stomach of such invalids, they are often productive of considerable disorder of the system, by the products of fermentation, as an acid gas, &c. In case of sluggishness of the bowels, a small dose of an active aperient medicine is therefore necessary every day to keep up the peristaltic motion, and for this purpose we have found the following composition most efficacious.

## Take of Extract of Rhubarb,

Extract of Jalap—of each one drachm;

Oil of Caraway Seeds, twenty drops;

Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, half a drachm.

Mix and divide into 35 pills, one, two, or three, to be taken every day, (according to their aperient effects), about two hours before dinner, with a wine-glassful of water (lukewarm). If the stomach does not perform its office properly, two tea-spoonsful of the tincture of fumitory or aromatic tincture of columbo\* may be added to the water. A bitter medicine should only be taken when the stomach is much disordered, the long continued use having been found to induce general debility in a gouty subject.

In elderly gouty subjects, and worn-out gouty debauchees, the sphincter muscle of the rectum is often in such a state of debility as not to be equal to its office. In such a case, the treatment recommended for costiveness of elderly subjects (pages 8 and 9), especially the use of a stimulating lavement, is necessary.

As auxiliaries to the above medicinal treatment, we recommend exercise on horseback, or by means of the machine termed the chamber-horse, galvanism, friction over the bowels by the galvanic brush or a dried hare skin, lavement of a weak solution of common salt, and the warm bath.

*Treatment of Costiveness of Rheumatic Subjects.*—The bowels of individuals subject to chronic rheumatism are not only generally in an indolent state; but it has been observed that some days previously to, or during a paroxysm or exacerbation of pain, the temperature of the abdomen is considerably reduced.

Some practitioners suppose that rheumatism takes place only in the tendinous and membranous parts of the body, and that its distinguishing symptoms arise from the peculiar texture of the parts, (not admitting of the nervous irritation or excitement advancing to a degree of active inflammation, as to proceed to suppuration), never attacks the stomach, intestines, or any other viscus of the abdomen or chest: but, even if the opinion be correct, surely the pleura, the peritoneal covering of the viscera, the ligamentous coat of the ascending and descending aorta, and their ramifications, are of the same peculiar structure.

Some cases of supposed translation of rheumatism from the extremities to the bowels, have been lately published, to prove that the bowels are subject to rheumatism; but they were all *acute* cases from effects of sudden changes in the atmosphere, or the consequence of what is vulgarly termed “taking cold;” and in such cases it is common for pains in the limbs to be forerunners of internal inflammation, and for them to cease when the inflammation is established; but no experienced practitioner would consider the local inflammation, rheumatic, or a case of translated rheumatism. It is also common for chronic rheumatic pains in the limbs to cease, on organic

\* This tincture is made by infusing an ounce and a half of bruised columbo root, and half an ounce of white canella bark, in a pint of brandy or proof spirit.

disease of the bladder, rectum, or mammary glands becoming painful, or arriving to its last stage; but in such cases it would be absurd to suppose that the organic disease is of a rheumatic nature, or that the rheumatic affection is translated to the seat of the organic disease. Certain it is, rheumatic invalids often experience obtuse pains in the stomach and bowels, and an irregular action of the bowels on unfavourable vicissitudes in the weather, which terminate when rheumatism takes place in the extremities. Chronic rheumatism in the extremities appears to be greatly dependent on a want of vigour in the abdominal viscera, an attack being preceded and accompanied by a sense of coldness in the stomach and intestines, and the pain being uniformly relieved by medicines which stimulate the bowels, and external applications which raise their temperature. Copious evacuations do not afford that relief to rheumatic as to gouty subjects, often in emaciated habits inducing much debility. Small doses of a stimulating purgative, combined with a stimulating diuretic and diaphoretic medicine, we have found very beneficial, not only in obviating costiveness, but in allaying rheumatic pains in the extremities, and often in curing the disease. The following is our favourite composition.

Take of Aromatic Pill, one drachm.

Ipecacuan Powder, ten grains.

Canada Balsam, one drachm.

Guaiac Gum in Powder, a sufficient quantity to form a mass; to be divided into middle sized pills; two or three to be taken twice a day, with a wine-glass of infusion of the buchu leaves or juniper berries.

The aperient salts, as the Epsom, Glauber's, &c. and the native saline mineral waters of Cheltenham, Leamington, &c. by reducing the temperature of the abdominal viscera, generally occasion an aggravation of *chronic rheumatism* in the extremities, and disorder the whole system. The objection to these cooling purgatives in cases of gout, apply with equal force to their use in cases of rheumatism. The composition we have noticed above increases the excrementitious secretion of the colon, and it is worthy of notice, that the benefit rheumatic and gouty patients derive from a purgative is in proportion to the dark colour and strong feculent or hydrogenous odour of the motions; those patients who pay attention to the alvine discharge, pronounce such characters as very favourable omens, especially when they take place spontaneously. We have so frequently observed the most distressing nervous restlessness, or general excitement of the nervous system to cease, on copious discharges of dark offensive feces, and particularly when hydrogen gas escapes with them in considerable quantity, that we have been disposed to consider the latter as a discharge from the nervous system into the colon.

If the invalid be subject to piles, or irritation about the rectum, two scruples of the extract of jalap may be substituted for the aromatic pill, to which half a drachm of extract of gentian may be added, if there be symptoms of indigestion, as loss of appetite, flatulence, heartburn, &c. As a topical application, or anti-rheumatic

liniment, to stimulate the skin, we have found the cajeput liniment, noticed p. 26, vol. I. the most efficacious. As auxiliaries to it, we may notice the warm bath, the sudatory, electricity, friction by means of the galvanic brush, and dry cupping. If the patient be of an irritable or feverish habit, thirty drops of the volatile tincture of colchicum seeds and twenty of the tincture of foxglove may be taken twice a day in a wine-glassful of an infusion of bark.

The above directions apply only to *chronic rheumatism*. The pills for regulating the intestines, by invigorating the digestive organs, and keeping up a proper circulation throughout the abdominal viscera, will secure the constitution against attacks of acute rheumatism, on atmospherical vicissitudes; but during the inflammatory stage of the disease, a less stimulating purgative should be employed, as the pill of extract of jalap, &c., recommended for constitutional costiveness in the 4th page of our last number.

*Treatment of Costiveness in rickety children.*—Costiveness has nothing to do in producing the disease of children termed the rickets, the morbid condition or disorder of the constitution, of which the affection of bones is a consequence generally following an opposite state of the bowels; but when the disease is established, although the bowels are not absolutely confined (the patient generally having one or two small motions daily) yet they are in a very indolent state, and both the stomach and intestines loaded with slime to such a considerable extent, as to occasion imperfect digestion, and to prevent the conveyance of chyle to the mass of blood by the lacteals. This accumulation favours the production of worms, and is a common cause of tumefaction of the mesenteric glands, which lays the foundation of the species of atrophy termed mesenteric consumption. In such cases, a brisk purgative medicine is necessary once or twice a week, to dislodge the accumulated slime, and for the purpose of removing the obstruction of the mesenteric glands, or of the liver, an addition of mercury is necessary; as the following—

Take of Rhubarb Powder, seven parts;

Prepared calomel, one part.—Mix.

The basilic powder was a very favourite purgative in cases of rickets, or costiveness of leucophlegmatic children, with the late Dr. Cam, of Hereford, and the late Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester; and we have often witnessed its beneficial effects. It is, however, too drastic a medicine to continue twice a week, for a longer period than a month. It is an excellent purgative to commence the treatment of rickets; and after it has reduced the size of the bowels, the composition of rhubarb and calomel may be substituted for it.

The patient will derive little benefit from the dislodgement of the accumulated slime, and the deobstruent effects of the mercury, unless a mild tonic medicine be administered during the intervening days. The following mixture we have found most beneficial in strengthening the stomach and bowels, and in removing the leucophlegmatic condition of the body:

Take of Alkaline Liquor of Iron,

Alkaline Tincture of Fumitory, of each half an ounce;

Extract of Rhatany Root, one drachm;

Lime Water, seven ounces.—Mix.

The dose of this mixture is, from one to two table-spoonsful, two or three times a day. The tincture of sumitory is not only a good stomachic in cases of rickets, but an excellent deobstruent.

The *granulated* tin was frequently prescribed by Dr. Blount, of Hereford, in cases of rickets and worms, with a view of mechanically stimulating the internal surfaces of the stomach and intestines, so as to throw off the accumulated slime; and in many bad cases, particularly of the leucophlegmatic habit, which may be termed the vermiculous constitution, attended with enlarged bowels and indigestion, we have known this mechanical stimulus prove more beneficial than the Peruvian bark, and other powerful tonic medicines.

An infusion of the bark of the white fir, (made by infusing six drachms of the bruised bark in a pint of boiling water, in a close vessel for two hours) in the dose of one or two table-spoonsful, is also an excellent remedy for rickets, and a preventive of worms. Friction over the bowels and limbs, and exercise, especially on horseback, are indispensable auxiliaries. The cold bath is also a powerful auxiliary, when there is a proper re-action of the system immediately after its use.

*Treatment of Costiveness attendant on Piles.*—Costiveness not only aggravates the distension of the hemorrhoidal veins and the effusion in the surrounding cellular membrane, constituting piles, but is generally the principal cause of the complaint. One dose of an active purgative, by unloading the lower intestines, generally affords considerable relief, but a repetition of it in the course of a few days, frequently increases the irritation. After unloading the bowels, a re-accumulation of feces in the colon and rectum should be prevented by the regular use of a mild dose of an active aperient, so as to produce one or two copious soft motions daily, in conjunction with a remedy, capable of allaying irritation in the rectum.

The following composition we have known not only to obviate costiveness without exciting griping pains in the intestines, but effectually to allay irritation and inflammatory excitement in the rectum:

Take of Extract of Jalap, (Gum-Resin)

Stockholm Pitch, of each one drachm.

Mix and divide into 24 pills—two or three to be taken once or twice a day.

A lavement of cold thin gruel, or cold water, once a day, has been lately much extolled by some French writers, as a remedy for piles and irritative affections of the rectum and colon; and we have heard some practitioners in this country, who have given it a trial in those complaints, speak very favourably of its efficacy in allaying irritation, and especially when attended with a disposition to prolapsus, in constringing relaxed haemorrhoidal vessels. The decoction of oak bark (cold), injected into the rectum, in cases of prolapsus ani, we have always found to excite considerable cholicky pains; and when the bowels are irritable, cold water injected into the colon, in case of piles, or inflammatory excitement in the rectum, might bring on inflammatory cholic. In a plethoric person, of an apoplectic make,

cold water, or cold thin gruel, injected into the rectum, might occasion such an afflux of blood to the brain as to occasion apoplexy. The lower parts of the intestines are more susceptible of the action of cold than any part of the body, and in gouty and other invalids of tender bowels, even cold water or cold air applied externally, will often excite cholicky pains and diarrhoea.

If the parts have sustained much mischief from repeated attacks of inflammatory piles, the following ointment may be applied externally, and by means of a bougie or candle, introduced within the verge of the anus, every night.

Take of the Hydro-sublimed Calomel, one drachm;  
Spermaceti Ointment, four ditto;  
Cerate of Acetate of Copper, two ditto.—Mix.

If the parts be in a state of great rigidity, or disposed to stricture or structural mischief, two drachms of the ointment of belladonna may be added to this composition. If the external skin be excoriated or affected with erysipelatous inflammation, which is generally attended with a distressing itching and an exudation of serum, it may be washed twice a day with the following lotion :

Take of Sulphate of copper, five grains;  
Elder-flower Water, four ounces.—Mix.

Or the following ointment may be rubbed over the affected parts every night and morning :

Take of Citrine Ointment, six drachms;  
Barbadoes Tar, half a drachm.—Mix.

All purgatives containing aloes, as the compound colocynth pill, the cathartic extract, (compound extract of colocynth) &c. are improper in cases of piles and morbid irritation of the rectum. Such is the peculiar stimulating effects of aloetic purges on the rectum, that, in general, piles, and most other schirrous diseases of the rectum, may be traced to their free use. All the advertised purgative and antibilious pills we have examined contain aloes; and to their regular use we have known invalids, who fell sacrifices to one of the most distressing diseases to which human nature is subject, viz. the scirrho-contracted rectum, attribute their affliction.

*Treatment of Costiveness with a predisposition to Apoplexy.*—Confined bowels in a plethoric habit, with a short neck, is a very common cause of apoplexy. When blood-vessels of the brain are evidently over-loaded, a full dose of a brisk cathartic is necessary, and here an aloetic purge, as the cathartic extract, or the compound colocynth pill, by its stimulating effects on the rectum, (occasions a determination of blood to the bowels, and even the lower extremities) is most beneficial.

To obviate costiveness, and accelerate the circulation of the blood through the bowels, ten grains of the aromatic pill (in two pills) may be taken once or twice a day.

The aperient neutral salts, as Glauber's, the Epsom, Rochelle, and the saline aperient waters, so frequently prescribed to obviate costiveness in a plethoric habit, predisposed to apoplexy, by reducing the temperature of the abdomen, has often a very injurious effect. The objections to this class of aperient medicines, noticed

in our last number, apply with greater force in cases of costiveness in plethoric habits, predisposed to apoplexy, than any other species of costiveness.

The shower-bath, or the application of cold water to the head every morning by means of a napkin, the asarabacca snuff, once a day, to increase the secretion from the nostrils, flannel socks to the feet, exercise (walking), and abstemious diet, are necessary auxiliaries; and if attended with symptoms of an impending fit, copious abstraction of blood.

*Treatment of Costiveness from a deficient secretion of Bile and during Jaundice.*—The liver of an European, who has been some years exposed to the influence of a tropical climate, becomes so torpid on his returning to his native country, as not to secrete a sufficient quantity of bile to stimulate the intestines; the consequences of which are, an obstinate degree of costiveness and accumulation of slime. To increase the peristaltic motion, in such cases, some practitioners employ a composition which they suppose to be similar to the properties of the bile, as subcarbonate of potass, soap, and aloes; but the subcarbonate of potass and the soap are decomposed by the acid which always prevail more or less in the stomach, before the composition gets into the duodenum, and the regular use of aloes never fails to excite irritation in the rectum, which in a few months has produced structural mischief. In cases of sluggishness of intestines, from deficiency of bile, we have found the following composition to succeed much better than those in common use:—

Take of Extract of Jalap (Gum Resin),\*

Extract of Fumitory,

Peruvian Balsam, of each half a drachm.

Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, one scruple.

Mix, and divide into thirty-six pills. From two to three to be taken twice a day.

Four grains of blue pill should also be taken every night for a fortnight, to invigorate the liver, and promote the secretion of bile. If the motions be slimy, the intestines should be well purged once a week, for the course of a month, and for this purpose the Bengal aperient pills, of Dr. Dick, noticed page 36, we have found most beneficial. If the liver has sustained structural derangement, a stimulating plaster may be placed over its region, as the camphorated gum plaster with mercury. Stimulating lavements, if the rectum and bladder be free from irritation (as recommended for costiveness attendant on old age and debility,) are important

\* In consequence of the long boiling, and great heat which are employed in making extract of jalap by wholesale chemists, it is seldom to be obtained good.—The extract we are in the habit of prescribing, is made by evaporating in a sand heat a filtered tincture of jalap, one drachm of which is equal to one ounce of the extract which is sold by many wholesale druggists. We advise our readers to obtain the gum resinous extract of jalap, at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly; and to compare that they may have obtained at Apothecaries' Hall, or elsewhere, with it.

auxiliaries. For costiveness attendant on jaundice, the following mixture is an excellent stomachic aperient medicine:

Take of Compound Decoction of Aloes, six ounces;

Tincture of Columbo, six drachms.

Mix.—Two or three table-spoonsful to be taken once or twice a day, so as to produce one or two copious alvine evacuations daily. A blue pill (four grains) may also be taken every night. If the disease be produced by spasms or biliary concretions (obstructing the duct,) four grains of the extract of henbane may be added to each dose of the mixture.

If the patient be subject to piles, or irritation in the rectum or bladder, the pills of extract of jalap, &c. recommended for habitual costiveness may be substituted for the above mixture. To this mixture the warm bath (96) is an important auxiliary.

*Treatment of Costiveness attendant on Rupture.*—Collection of feces in the intestines of a ruptured person is not only the common cause of strangulation, but the distension of the bowels, and particularly the protruding portion of the intestines by accumulated gas, which is an attendant on it, is always very distressing. Strangulation of the protruding part, being a most serious occurrence, ruptured persons should be very particular in keeping their bowels in a regular state as to evacuations, and to guard against distension by full diets, or a free use of vinous liquors.

Active purging in cases of costiveness, by suddenly forcing the feces into the protruding portion of the intestine, having brought on strangulation, it is more prudent to guard against accumulation by obviating costiveness, than to have recourse to a powerful cathartic to remove it. For the purpose of obviating costiveness and expelling gas, two or three of the following pills may be taken once or twice a day, so as to produce one or two evacuations daily.

Take of Extract of Jalap (Gum Resin), one drachm;

Peruvian Balsam, half a drachm;

Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, one scruple;

Mix, and divide into twenty-four pills.

If the patient be subject to indigestion, half a drachm of the extract of sumitory may be added to the above formula, and the mass divided into thirty pills. If the costiveness has existed a few days, and the intestines are evidently overloaded, a stimulating laverment, as half a pint of infusion of senna with a table-spoonful of common salt, dissolved in a pint of water, may be administered lukewarm. In cases of spasms the warm bath (98) is an important auxiliary to aperient medicines.

*Treatment of retention of feces from Introsusception.*—The treatment of obstructions from the state of the intestinal tube termed *introsusception*, we have given in our 107th number, p. 1148.

*Treatment of Costiveness attendant on Pregnancy.*—The pressure of the uterus on the colon, after the 7th month of pregnancy, is a common cause of the retention of feces, which, in plethoric, asthmatic, and consumptive subjects, and in cases of diseased rectum, kidneys, or bladder, produces much distress.

For the purpose of removing the accumulated feces, a lavement of a weak solution of Epsom or common salt, (an ounce in a quart of water) administered once a day, generally succeeds: The patient should lie on the right side when it is exhibited, that the descending colon may be as little compressed as possible, by the impregnated uterus. It should be thrown up by means of a syringe, with a blunt conical end, to pass only the verge of the anus, much serious mischief having been done to the rectum by a long pipe during the last stage of pregnancy. It being of importance that the feces be not hard, or that hard lumps, termed scybalæ, should not form in the colon, one or two of the following pills may be taken every or every other day:

Take of Extract of Jalap, (Gum Resin) one drachm;

Extract of Rhubarb, half a ditto;

Ginger Powder, twelve grains.

Mix, and divide into 24 pills.

If the digestive organs do not perform their office, half a drachm of the extract of sennit, or of cascarilla, may be added to the above prescription, and the mass divided into 30 pills, of which two or three may be taken once or twice a day, so as to produce one motion daily, or to prevent hard feces. These pills will often succeed so as to render the use of a lavement unnecessary. If piles be present, the ointment recommended in p. 41, may be applied every night and morning, or after every motion.

*Treatment of Costiveness of Asthmatic subjects.*—Distension of the bowels by feces, and by gas, is a very common exciting cause of the asthmatic paroxysm, and never fails to oppress asthmatic subjects. True asthma, is so much dependent on a disordered state of the bowels, and languid circulation through the abdominal viscera, that every asthmatic is aware of the necessity of paying attention to them. A full dose of an active purgative medicine, unless there be a determination of blood to the head, sometimes brings on an asthmatic paroxysm, probably by disturbing the nerves of the stomach and diaphragm. A mild dose of an active aperient to obviate costiveness, or to produce two motions daily, is always so highly beneficial, that we have known asthmatics escape a paroxysm for many years, by keeping the bowels in a regular state.

... The following composition we have found the most successful in obviating costiveness of asthmatics:

Take of the Aromatic Pill, one drachm;

Squill Pill, half a drachm.

Mix, and divide into 20 pills—two or three to be taken twice a day.

If the patient be advanced in years, or much debilitated, or if the legs swell towards night, or are cold or edematous, and the skin pale, half a drachm of the carbonate of iron, or oxyphosphate of iron, may be added to the above composition, and the mass divided into 24 pills, of which three may be taken twice a day.

When the breathing is very difficult, or the lungs oppressed with symptoms of an approaching paroxysm, two or three tea-spoonsful of the oxymel of colchicum seeds, with forty drops of Hoffman's anodyne, may be taken in a little cold water, or three table-spoonsful of the following mixture, two or three times a day.

**Take of Oxymel of Colchicum Seeds, one ounce and a half;**  
**Hoffman's Anodyne Liquor, three drachms;**  
**Camphorated Julep, six ounces;**  
**Prussic Acid, six drops.—Mix.**

It is worthy of remark, that asthmatics in general, like gouty and rheumatic subjects, derive most benefit from a purgative medicine, when the motions are dark, and emit a strong excrementitious odour like hydrogene, and when much gas escapes with them.

*Treatment of Constipation attendant on the Devonshire Colic, or Colic of Painters, vulgarly termed the dry Belly-ache.*—On the first attack of this disease, the bowels are generally most obstinately constipated. Some practitioners of eminence recommend opium to be administered, by the mouth and clysterwise, with the view of allaying spasms and morbid irritation of the intestines, previously to the employment of an aperient medicine; whilst others contend that, when the opium is intimately mixed with the purgative medicine, the latter does not excite nausea, or vomiting operates with greater ease, and more expeditiously, in consequence of the opium removing the spasmodic contraction of the muscular coat of the intestines; and this latter practice, under the direction of the late Mr. Cam, of Hereford, and Dr. Blount, at the Hereford Infirmary (a county in which this disease prevails), we have known to prove most beneficial. The following is the composition of these eminent practitioners:—

**Take of Opium Powder, two grains;**  
**Cathartic Extract, twelve grains;**  
**Prepared Calomel, three ditto.**

Cathartic clysters of infusion of senna, Epsom salt, and tincture of opium, were also administered, and the bowels well fomented, till an evacuation was produced.

Stimulating purgatives are necessary in this species of constipation, although the tension and tenderness of the bowels, on pressure, and the state of the blood vessels, may indicate the propriety of bleeding and blistering; for when the disease has been removed by them, the paralytic affection of the upper extremities was always much less than when a solution of the Epsom salt, in an infusion of senna, was exhibited under the direction of another physician of the institution. Although the constipation is not occasioned by a mechanical obstruction, as in the disease termed intussusception, when it proves obstinate, it will require the same decisive treatment to remove it as recommended in page 19, Vol. X. In one obstinate case, the following composition, taken at once, produced the desired effect.

**Take of Croton Oil, 2 drops;**  
**Castile Soap, 4 grains;**  
**Extract of Henbane, 8 grains;**  
**Colocynth Powder, 4 grains;**  
**Oil of Cloves, 2 drops.**

To be mixed and divided into middle-sized pills.

In other cases, the Croton oil excited vomiting. It appears, by an account of the Croton oil, by an Indian practitioner, that when rubbed round the navel, it has succeeded in producing alvine evacuations, in cases when the stomach was in too irritable a state to admit of the exhibition of any aperient medicine.

*Treatment of retention of feces, accompanied with strictural or structural diseases of the Rectum or Colon.*—In cases of contractions of the rectum or colon from structural disease, and especially when ulceration has taken place, a collection of hard feces in the colon produces a most distressing sense of distension, and the passing of them the most excruciating pain.\* Although the cause of the retention is mechanical, and admits of local treatment by injections, it is of great consequence to prevent the formation of hard feces in the colon, or the lumps termed scybalæ, as it is often difficult to inject the colon so as to soften them. With this view we have found the following composition not only to produce soft feces, but considerably to reduce the local irritation.

Take of Extract of Jalap (Gum Resin), one drachm;

Stockholm Pitch, half a drachm;

and divide into twenty pills—two to be taken once or twice a day. In this case lavements, particularly anodyne ones, are unquestionably important remedies when easily exhibited. We have found warm water with linseed oil and laudanum to act most beneficially, but the parts are often so very sensible as not to admit either of the introduction of a clyster-pipe, even when covered with elastic gum, or the pressure of the syringe with a conical end, recommended for costiveness attendant on pregnancy. The saline aperient salts, and the mineral saline purgative waters of Cheltenham, Leamington, &c. &c. we have uniformly observed to increase the sufferings of the patient, and particularly to aggravate the irritation at the neck of the bladder, which, to a greater or less degree, we have always found to accompany organic diseases of the rectum and colon. In our addition to the Appendix, containing an account of the buchu leaves, we have given some directions for the local management of this most distressing affection.

We shall conclude this article on Costiveness with a communication on some of the effects of habitual costiveness, with two interesting cases from Dr. Borthwick, an eminent physician of Edinburgh, to Dr. Duncan, jun. of the same university, which appeared in the last number of the Edinburgh Medical and Physical Journal; and this we do with much pleasure, because it confirms the truth of the remarks we have made in our two last numbers on the same subject.

“ In the following very brief notice, I wish to record one or two facts relative to the bad effects of *habitual* costiveness, and illustrative of the deceitful train of symptoms which may be observed. I have no doubt that very many such cases may have occurred to some of the readers of your Journal, and if so, they will the better understand the very interesting nature of the following cases.

“ In the autumn, I was consulted by an English lady, who had been in very delicate health for some years, and who had been sent to Madeira three years before, under the impression that she was consumptive. She had had severe pains in both sides, frequent cough, difficulty of breathing, and emaciation, which symptoms were consi-

\* A female, with a scirrho-contracted rectum in an ulcerated state the mother of seven children, has frequently observed to us, that the passing of hard feces was more intolerable than the strongest labour pains she ever experienced.

dered to indicate disease of the lungs, and for which she was repeatedly blistered and leeched, and every other remedy which is commonly adopted in the early stages of pulmonary consumption, was had recourse to. She spent a year at Madeira, and returned to England much improved in her health, and was held forth as a living instance of the good effect of *climate in curing* consumption.

"This lady soon after married, and while on a visit to some friends in this country, she was attacked with a recurrence of those identical symptoms for which she had been sent to Madeira. Her friends were in great dismay, and the lady herself expressed much apprehension about her situation; and certainly her general delicate appearance as she lay on her sofa, with dry cough, short breathing, and flushed cheek, led me (*prima facie*) to fear that there were some grounds for alarm.

"After hearing her own statement of her case, I was agreeably surprised to find her pulse beating at 76 in a minute; and at the same time, I observed the eyes suffused with bile, the tongue loaded, bitter taste in the mouth, no appetite, the bowels confined for some days past, and *habitually* torpid; and on examining into the exact seat of the pain, so much and so anxiously complained of, I ascertained it to be seated on the one side in the commencement of the colon termed the *caput cæcum coli*, and on the other in the sigmoid flexure of the same intestine, while at times the pain was described as shooting up into the chest, being aggravated by cough, but always most severe in the parts already described. The practice here was obvious; and, on giving my opinion and directions, I perceived a kind of dissatisfaction and uncertainty about my patient, who candidly told me, that "leeches and a blister would have been more acceptable advice, and more consonant with her own notions about her complaints, as she recollects but too well that she was affected in the same way previous to her being sent off to Madeira." I requested, however, that she would devote three days to my prescriptions, by the end of which time I ventured to promise her that her fears would be in a great measure removed. During these three days, such copious (and to the patient, astonishing), evacuations of *indurated* feces were procured, that she in vain felt for the pain in her sides, which, with all the other deceitful symptoms under which she had laboured, entirely owed their existence to the vast accumulation in the parts already described. I need scarcely add, that, by regular and systematic attention, on this lady's part, to keep up a gentle but steady action of the bowels, all fears of consumption vanished, and she has since enjoyed good health.

"Mrs. G. 24 years of age, from her infancy of an obstinately costive habit, was seized, about 10 p. m., on 4th August 1823, with violent pain of the abdomen, accompanied by constant retching and tenesmus. She continued in this state during the night, and at 6 a. m., I was called to see her, at which time she was very low after the exhaustion caused by so many hours of constant sickness.

"The extreme distress of this lady, and the general alarm of her attendants, ill accorded with the time lost before assistance was sent for. I was, however, informed that this violent complaint was of

frequent occurrence, and was generally considered "a cramp in her stomach," which went off in an hour or two; but that, on the present occasion, the "cramp" seemed more severe, and of longer continuance, than had ever before been experienced. It was also stated, that Mrs G. had taken various articles during the night, which in former attacks used to "settle the pain," but all of which had been rejected immediately. The patient was sitting up in bed, resting her elbows on her knees; her countenance pale, and peculiarly anxious; her skin bedewed with a cold clammy moisture; her tongue brown and parched, and her thirst urgent; her pulse was only 80, and low. My first care was to ascertain the exact seat of the pain complained of, and to satisfy myself that no species of rupture had taken place. On examining the abdomen, and tracing the course and arch of the colon, I discovered a hard, knotty, and irregular surface, as if one felt a parcel of walnuts contained in a bag. There was no doubt that this lady's sufferings must have continued more or less, until these lumps were got rid of, which were obviously scybalous masses impacted in the great arch of the colon.

"As soon as the general irritability was somewhat assuaged by the warm bath, and applications of hot brandy to the epigastric region; a dose of castor oil was taken, which passed through the bowels, leaving all the mischief behind it, as did also a dose of Epsom salts taken the day before. I now ordered 15 grains of the compound extract of colocynth to be taken every third hour; and, in the intervals, a wine-glassful of a solution of Epsom salt in peppermint water. Hot fomentations, sprinkled with laudanum, were kept constantly applied over the abdomen; and the urgent thirst was mitigated by sucking thin slices of lemon. After some hours, the cause of this lady's illness was set in motion; and during that night, and the whole of the following day, an incredible discharge of large hardened lumps took place; the arch of the colon was unloaded; pain and sickness ceased; and another warm bath at bed-time produced such a soothing night's rest, that this patient declared she felt better than she had done for some months past. She, of course, was desired to persevere for some time in the use of laxative medicines; and I am happy to say, she has never since had a return of the "cramp in her stomach."

"I commenced by saying, that I would detail two very simple cases, of every-day occurrence in our profession; but simple indeed as they may appear, I trust that, to the practical reader, they will be considered abundantly interesting."

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### ON THE USE OF SNUFF, (*continued from p. 19.*)

THE increased secretion of mucus from the internal surface of the nostrils, is also beneficial to the health of those who are subject to nervous head-ache and other nervous affections. The late Dr. Garthshore, who died at an advanced age, assured us, that he found snuff to be a greater cordial than wine or spirits, and that he was certain its action on the brain had the effect of invigorating his stomach, and that by keeping down irritation, it prolonged his life. We believe the

doctor indulged in the use of the "co-minuted tobacco," vulgarly termed snuff, to as great an extent as any person, either in Taunton or elsewhere.

If tobacco in any form is capable of producing diseases of increased excitement in consequence of being a powerful *narcotic*, i. e. possessing the property of diminishing nervous energy, why are not the Turks subject to those afflictions of the stomach and gullet, who swallow a considerably greater quantity of a much more powerful *narcotic* (opium) in one day, than any chewer or smoker of tobacco, or snuff-taker, in this country, consumes of tobacco or its preparation in the course of a week? Doctor Kinglake will no doubt, like a man of science, favour us with a full answer to this question, for an early number. That those individuals who have thoughtlessly indulged in the pernicious habit of taking snuff, may have no *valid reason* for continuing the practice, the Doctor assures them that if their noses require a cordial, and if the *stimulating* effects of the powerful *narcotic* on the brain, in consequence of the proximity of the mucous membrane of the nose to the brain, proved beneficial, the same purpose may be answered by substances *not less pungent* than the powerful *narcotic* tobacco, and at the same time has the great advantage of being exempt from its deleterious qualities. "The *effluvia*," says he, "of ammonia, in either a *solid* or liquid form, the aroma of pepper, ginger, or *any other simple stimulant* mixed with either powder, chalk, liquorice, or cinnamon, in such proportion as will render the composition sufficiently powerful, moderately to irritate without excoriating the nasal membrane, would be an adequate substance for what may be regarded as the harmless agency of tobacco, with a secure exemption from its pernicious influence.

"It is, however," continues the observant Doctor, "not probable that the *local* excitement of the nostrils can ever prove *salutary* or *advantageous*, beyond the momentary gratification connected with the established habit of the practice; and as *all unnecessary usages* are rather *nuisances* than *benefits*, it would seem to be indispensably advisable to abstain from a custom that is *unsightly* in its *appearance*, *preposterous* in its *observance*, and in *every conceivable view* that can be taken of its effects, much more likely to become eventually injurious than useful"!!

As an innocent substitute for this *powerful narcotic*, *tobacco* or *snuff*, the learned Doctor recommends the most powerful article of an opposite class of medicines, viz. *stimulants*; as *ammonia*!! We suppose that by *solid ammonia*, the learned Doctor means *carbonate of ammonia*, ammonia being in a gaseous state. The Doctor, like the proprietor of a *nostrum*, to give weight to his arguments and observations, occasionally represents tobacco as a powerful *narcotic* or *inirritant*, and a *stimulant* or *irritant*. Snuff, when applied to the nostrils of those who have not been in the habit of taking it, frequently excites sneezing, and this effect has been noticed as a proof of its first action being *stimulant*; but it is, we conceive, more from its *mechanical* than *any chemical action*; the same being generally produced by a dried *powder* of the same coarseness, which possesses no *chemical property*.

or virtue whatever. Snuff-takers, particularly in France, Italy, and Germany, enjoy a pinch after dinner; and in those countries, the snuff-box circulates more freely than the bottle, and the takers contend that it proves a cordial to the mind, not by *stimulating* the membranes of the nose, but by allaying the increased excitement of the nervous system, which is produced by the dinner meal; and we have heard some medical men say, that they have derived the same *tranquillizing* effect from a pinch of snuff, after a stimulating dinner, as they did when they were in the habit of indulging in a nap for a few minutes, or taking a cup of coffee or soda water for the same purpose. Lowness of spirits is as much attendant on morbid irritation of the nervous system, and acceleration of the circulation; as on diminished excitement and a languid circulation; and in such cases, an anodyne or an anti-irritant proves a cordial to the mind, by quieting the system.

If then a pinch of snuff acts as a cordial to the mind after dinner, by allaying nervous excitement and quieting the stomach, is an article capable of increasing the morbid excitement of the system, a proper substitute for it? Indeed, would any man in his senses stimulate the brain by ammonia after a full meal? As to the aroma of pepper, it would most probably excite sneezing after a full meal; an operation which might be productive of serious consequences, especially in a plethoric habit.

By these remarks, our readers must not understand that we are advocating the use of snuff; for it is, like that of taking opium or smoking, a bad practice to adopt as a luxury. We mean only to say, that nervous subjects, who have been accustomed to it, cannot abandon it entirely with impunity, and that we are satisfied the article is incapable of producing the disease which Dr. Kinglake has attributed to it; indeed, we are of opinion, that if the snuff-box were circulated after dinner, instead of the bottle, in this country, those diseases of the stomach, bowels, gullet, and windpipe, which Dr. K. ascribes to snuff-takers, would be more rare among us. As to the disease of the stomach, which terminated the life of Buonaparte, he frequently observed, that snuff afforded him more relief than medicine; and his medical attendant, who attributed it to the excessive use of snuff, was in the habit of taking it nearly to the same extent. In our ninety-sixth number, we have noticed some cases of cancerous ulcerations of the face, which Mr. Earle attributed to the local action of snuff on the skin; but there is a great difference between the action of a dry powder on a non-secreting surface, and of a powder mixed with mucus conveyed to a secreting surface. On the skin, a *dry* powder, of no stimulating or narcotic power, will, from repeated or almost constant use, produce disease; as a proof of which, we may notice the obstinate ulcerations of the hands to which bakers and mealmen, &c. are liable. We suspect Mr. Earle's cases of the supposed local injurious effects of the continued use of snuff, induced Dr. Kinglake to volunteer some *practical* remarks on the *general* use of it.

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#### ALE.

We have received from a scientific gentleman, whose principal luxury is good ale, two samples of strong malt liquor; in one of which, the fermentation had been hastened by means of yeast, and in the

other it proceeded spontaneously. In the Letter which accompanied the bottles, he observes—"On the 2nd of February last, I brewed some ale, from five bushels of malt and four pounds of hops, making the first mash about 37 gallons of wort. After it had boiled the proper time, an eighteen-gallon cask was filled with it, whilst hot (according to the inclosed directions), and the remaining wort was then taken from the boiler, and, after cooling, was fermented with yeast in the usual way, and put into an eighteen-gallon cask. I kept the two casks till lately, in order to ascertain which would turn out best." Of the two, he says, he prefers that which was made by spontaneous fermentation; but he thinks it will not suit many families, on account of its not becoming ripe in less time than twelve months. The following is a copy of the direction to which he refers:—

"The process of brewing may be much simplified and facilitated, and much of the inconveniences avoided; great care being taken that the malt *be not scalded* with the wetting or washing; the process of mashing will be the same as under the former system. The beer is then to be removed from the boiler, but the hops are not to be strained off, and it is to be taken to the cellar and tunned. The barrels are to be left open. In about four or five days, when the beer becomes cold, the process of fermentation will spontaneously commence; no yeast is to be applied. The hops and some of the beer will rise, and work out of the barrel. When the beer sinks in the barrel, the barrel is to be filled up and bunged. Thus the beer will be improved in strength, and the flavour of the hop will be finer, in consequence of the steam gradually evaporating with the hops in the barrel."

The ale made without yeast is certainly much richer, and possesses a much stronger aromatic flavour of the hop, than that made with it; but it certainly does not afford, on distillation, a greater proportion of spirit; and, containing a quantity of the saccharine matter of the malt (which constitutes its richness), it is very apt to run into the acetous fermentation in the stomach of a person whose digestion is not good.

The use of hops is to preserve the liquor in a vinous state; that is, to prevent the fermentation advancing to the acetous stage. They should, therefore, not be added till the vinous state is nearly completed. After the liquor has fermented four days (by means of yeast), it should be racked upon the hops, previously infused, for six hours, in a sufficient quantity of boiling water to cover them (in a close vessel), and tunned, and firmly bunged. The ale will then be preserved in a vinous state, and will contain the aroma and bitter principle of the hop, which will prevent its disordering the stomach. The aroma of the hop is unquestionably nearly dissipated by the fermentative process, and, we may add, its bitter quality much deteriorated. Our correspondent prefers the Mathon white hop, the aroma and bitter quality of which are certainly stronger, and more agreeable to the palate, than of any other hop of this country.\*

In our next Number, we hope to be able to give directions for making excellent ale, at a small expense, with hops and potatoes, which have been adopted by some chemists in Russia and Poland.

\* The Mathon white hop, we believe, is only sold by Mr. Butler, dealer in herbs, in Covent Garden.

We have postponed the insertion of the communication, that we may give it a trial, in order to ascertain the quality of the article.

### BRITISH WINES.

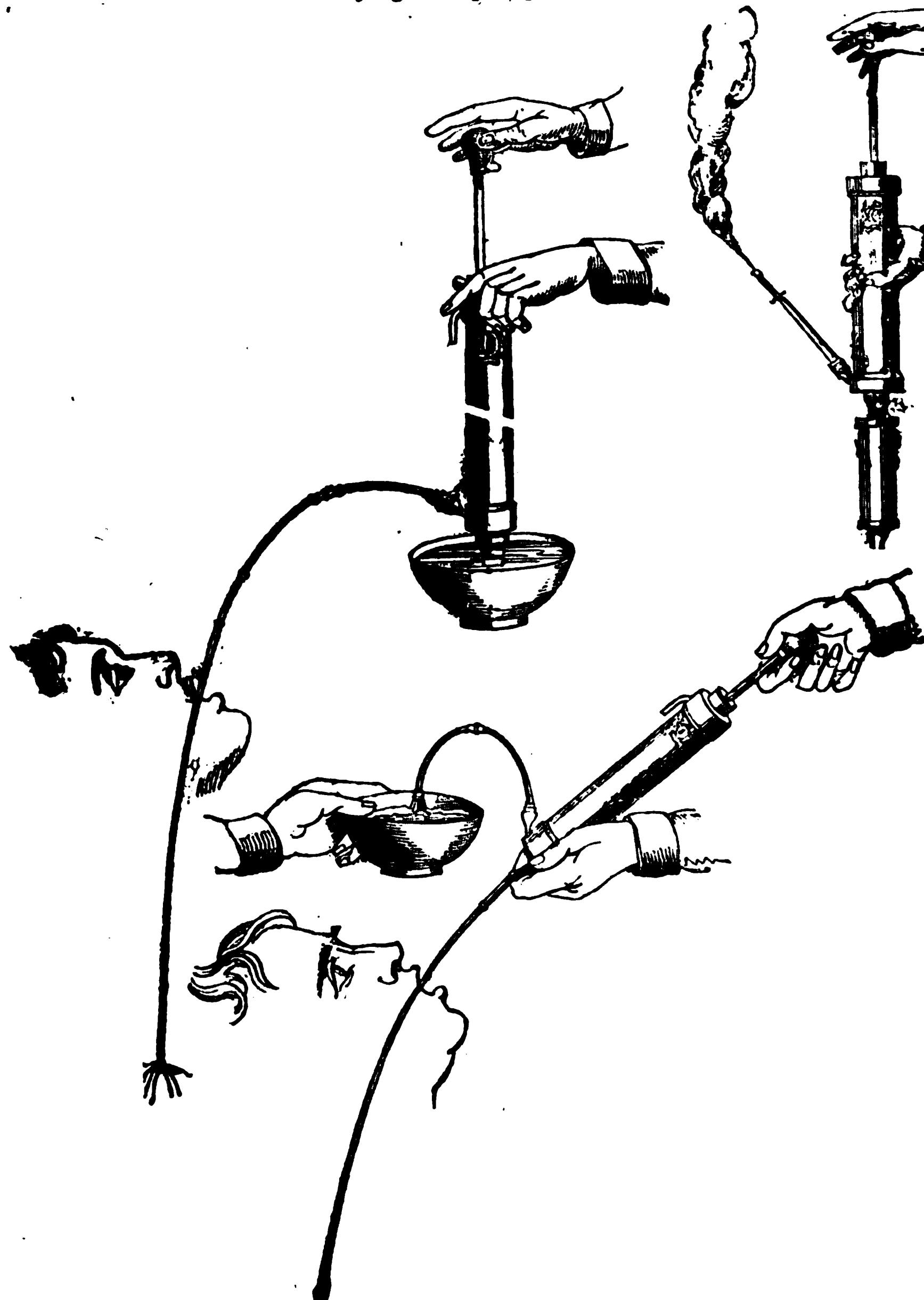
From an old subscriber we have received two bottles of British raisin wine to analyse, with a request that after a chemical examination we will give him instructions for correcting the predominating acid, and point out a mode of making it so that it may be less acid and less luscious. The acid we find on examination to be chiefly vinegar, and the sweetness is of course from sugar which has not been decomposed by fermentation. On the continent, neither sugar nor yeast is employed to make wine with dried grapes (raisins); the raisins are soaked in a sufficient quantity of water to cover them for three or four days, when they generally burst; they are then bruised in the water, the expressed liquor is put into a cask to ferment, and when the process has nearly ceased, which requires about three days, the cask is filled up with brandy and closely bunged. Sugar is much more slow in fermenting than the saccharine matter of raisins, or of any ripe fruit of this country, and the consequence is, when it is added to a ripe fruit, the fermentative process is so rapid in the latter that it arrives to the acetous stage before the vinous has scarcely commenced in the former, and hence British wines are not only very sweet, but sour, and consequently very unwholesome. The juice of few fruits of this country, however ripe, contains a sufficient quantity of saccharine matter to remain in a vinous state. The juice of some pears, which contain a great proportion of saccharine matter, will not for many years advance beyond the vinous state if excluded from the atmosphere; but the fermented juice of the apple is rarely to be obtained entirely free from acetic acid. To make wine with ripe gooseberries, currants, grapes, or elderberries, in this country, an addition of sugar is absolutely necessary, for the fruits being deficient in saccharine matter, the juice will not remain in the vinous stage of fermentation many weeks, and the sugar not being so readily decomposed by fermentation as the saccharine matter of the fruit, the latter (as in the raisin wine) advances to the acetous stage before the vinous process has scarcely commenced in the former, and hence the wines termed British contain a proportion of vinegar. To make a good wholesome wine with sugar and a ripe fruit, the sugar should be dissolved in half the quantity of the water, and fermented with yeast about ten days, when the liquor may be racked on the fruit, previously well blended with the other portion of water; the fermentation should be then continued three or four days longer, according to its sweetness, when a small quantity of brandy should be added to arrest the fermentative process, and the barrel firmly bunged. The subcarbonate of soda (about a scruple to a quart) we have found the best article for neutralizing the acetic acid in British wines, the salt which forms (acetate of soda) giving it a pleasant pungent taste. A small quantity of brandy should be added to preserve it in a vinous state.

In the East and West Indies it is a common practice to expose sour wine, in bottles well corked, to the heat of the sun for some weeks, to correct the acidity, and by this plan Madeira wine, in which the acetous fermentation had commenced, has been restored to a fine vinous condition. The best wine made in this country is that of the green gooseberry; the fruit in a green state being free from saccharine matter, the sugar advances to its vinous state, and the native acid of the gooseberry is preserved; and although it is sometimes very acid, it is free from vinegar.



Position of the Syringe for Injecting.

For Tobacco



The Position of the Syringe for extracting Poison from the Stomach.

**MODE OF USING THE INSTRUMENT.**

The Oesophagus tube is first passed into the Stomach ; next, the two first lengths of the tubes are fixed to the lateral branch of the Syringe, and the detached brass socket being screw the extremity, the armed end of the Oesophagus tube is inserted into it, and the fluid throw the Stomach. The Oesophagus tube is next separated from the socket, and inserted into the extremity of the Syringe, when a few strokes of the piston empties the Stomach.

AN  
**APPEAL**  
TO THE  
**MEDICAL PROFESSION,**  
ON THE UTILITY OF THE  
**Improved Patent Syringe,**  
**WITH DIRECTIONS FOR ITS SEVERAL USES,**  
SHewing, BY  
**A STATEMENT OF FACTS,**  
THE VALIDITY OF THE RIGHTS AND CLAIMS OF THE  
**PATENTEE.**

---

**BY JOHN READ,**

**Maker to the Army, and the Honorable East India Company's Forces; Inventor  
of the Veterinary Syringe for removing Intestinal Obstruction of Horses,  
and for relieving Blown Cattle, &c. &c.**

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**THIRD EDITION.**

**" Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."**

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**LONDON :**

**Printed by W. Glendinning, 25, Hatton Garden.**



AN APPEAL  
TO THE  
**MEDICAL PROFESSION,**  
&c. &c.

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THERE are, probably, no instances in the progress of the arts connected with Medical Practice, in which so much unjust prejudice has been excited, so much bad faith displayed, so much duplicity resorted to, and so much fraud used, as have been opposed, by interested persons, to the success of an instrument, the use of which being attended with the most important results to suffering humanity, affects, of course, very materially the reputation of Surgery and the character of its professors. In this view alone, I should be perfectly justified in the attempt to remove any ambiguity that might render the value of my Instrument, in the least equivocal; and still more so, when it is seen that efforts are made, not only to deprive me of what little credit the merit of the improvement may deserve, but to depreciate its utility by invidious comparisons, and to substitute, nefariously, *imitative* but *inferior* Instruments, which are foisted upon the Profession as *mine*, much to my prejudice, and greatly to the injury of Medical Practice. With this apology I shall proceed at once to shew, how far

I am worthy the patronage of the Profession, and what are the just claims and merits of the Instrument, for which I humbly solicit their approbation, leaving them to decide whether the opposition I experience is grounded on public interest or *private emolument*.

My avocations in life have led me through all classes of society, and, amidst the variety of my duties, I have been honoured most particularly with the patronage (and I trust it will not be deemed presuming, if, in the gratitude and warmth of my feelings, I add, the *friendship* also) of the Medical Gentlemen of my district, in the counties of Kent and Sussex. During one of my occupations of this nature, with that respectable and amiable man, Mr. Newington, Surgeon, of Goudhurst, in the year 1819, I learned that himself, and Dr. Wilmot, of Hastings, had recently lost a patient (whom they had been conjointly attending) with obstruction of the bowels. I ventured to enquire of these gentlemen, if there was no apparatus by which mechanical distension might be effected in these cases; they replied, that surgeons possessed no instrument by which a sufficient accumulation of fluid with an efficient power, could be properly directed. Convinced, as I was, from hydraulic principles, that both these objects could be easily effected, I instantly turned my attention to the subject, and in the course of the following year, I perfected my Injecting Syringe, for which I obtained a Patent in the month of August, 1820. By order of Sir William Blizzard, I submitted the Instrument to the inspection of the Court of Examiners, at the Royal College of Surgeons, who highly approved of it. Mr. Abernethy, in particular, was pleased to express his approbation of the principle upon which it was constructed. During the year 1821, most of the surgeons of this part of the country had possessed themselves of the Instrument, which having given them, in their practice, the most satis-

factory results, they very liberally and *unsolicited*, gave the following testimony of its utility :

( COPY. )

*" We, the undersigned, Professional Men, strongly recommend the use of the PATENT INJECTING MACHINE, Invented by MR. JOHN READ, as being the most efficient Instrument for the purpose of removing Obstructions in the Bowels; and declare that we have had, by experience, proofs of the most decided advantage it has over every other Instrument within our knowledge, invented for the same purpose."*

<b>" Robert Montague Wilmot, M. D.</b>	<b>Hastings.</b>
<b>Robert Watts, M. D.</b>	<b>Cranbrook.</b>
<b>William Duke.</b>	<b>Hastings.</b>
<b>Thomas B. Satterley,</b>	<b>Do.</b>
<b>George Taylor,</b>	<b>Do.</b>
<b>James Duttan,</b>	<b>Do.</b>
<b>Robert Ranking,</b>	<b>Do.</b>
<b>Charles Stephen Crouch,</b>	<b>Do.</b>
<b>Robert Watts,</b>	<b>Battle.</b>
<b>James Watts,</b>	<b>Do.</b>
<b>Stephen Monkton,</b>	<b>Brenchley.</b>
<b>Jonathan Monkton,</b>	<b>Do.</b>
<b>Samuel Newington,</b>	<b>Goudhurst.</b>
<b>Charles Newington,</b>	<b>Ticehurst.</b>
<b>Edward Morris,</b>	<b>Tunbridge.</b>
<b>Richard Thompson,</b>	<b>Rochester.</b>
<b>Avery Roberts,</b>	<b>Lewes.</b>
<b>Henry Verral,</b>	<b>Do.</b>
<b>John Vine,</b>	<b>East Peckham."</b>

In the *following* year, (1822) Mr. Scott and Mr. Jukes, two Surgeons of London, instituted their experiments for emptying the stomach in cases of poisoning, with an apparatus furnished by Mr. Gill, a Surgical Instrument Maker of Warwick-place. This apparatus consisted of a flexible tube attached to an *elastic bottle*, the latter of which was

suggested by Mr. Scott, which, though it succeeded most satisfactorily, and practically demonstrated the success of the operation, did not completely fulfil these gentlemen's wishes. They therefore applied to Mr. Gill for a Syringe, in lieu of the bottle, and he shortly afterwards supplied them with one, similar to mine, except that it had stop-cocks instead of valves. That Mr. Gill modelled this Instrument from my invention, is evident to every one who compares the two, and his piracy admits of no doubt when it is known that he was in close connexion with a certain firm in Salisbury-square, that I had, unfortunately, appointed my agents, but whom I subsequently found were warmly engaged in Mr. Gill's interest, to the injury of mine. Notwithstanding my Instrument had been made, sold, and the Patent obtained, *two years before* Mr. Gill manufactured the Syringe which he circulated under the name of "Jukes' Syringe." he (Gill) has the effrontery to assert the priority of his *imitation*, a claim that he could only make by his ignorance of the date of my Patent! If he had had the prudence to look for this date at the Patent Office, he would have found it was necessary to carry his *invention* back *three* years farther than he has now done; in this case, a blustering assertion might have given some colour to the fraud; but the hint now comes too late, and will not avail him.

To shew at once the absurdity of Mr. Gill's claim to originality in One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty TWO, I beg the readers attention to the following Letter from a Surgical Instrument Maker in One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty ONE!!!

SIR,

( 1 )

I have this day seen one of your Patent Syringes in a window in the City, but as I could not have an opportunity of examining it, I could form no opinion of its merits. I am

in a business principally amongst Professional men and Druggists, and if the Syringe has merit, could sell a great many, I therefore request you will favor me with a full explanation, with the price retail, and the price you charge with the greatest discount for money, on delivery, and in the event of my approving of the instrument, I will send you an order. Waiting your answer,

I remain, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

G. Maw.

55, Aldermanbury,

Oct. 18, 1821.

Sir Astley Cooper having seen my Instrument, which I had fitted up with the addition of an œsophagus tube, and being desirous of repeating Mr. Scott's experiment of removing the contents of the stomach, directed me to attend with it at Guy's Hospital, for that purpose. I accordingly waited on him at that place on Friday, Nov. 21, 1823, and the following report from the Lancet, describes the result of that attendance.

"At half-past one o'clock the operating theatre was crowded to excess, in consequence of its having been stated on the preceding Tuesday that some experiments were to be tried on a dog this day, for the purpose of ascertaining whether liquids could be put into the stomach, and removed from it by means of an instrument, which had been lately invented by Mr. Read, of Horsmonden, Kent.

"Prior, however, to the making of the experiment, a middle-sized steatomatous tumour was removed from a female, just below the inferior angle of the left scapula.

"At two o'clock precisely, a dog was placed on the table. Its legs and body being secured by two or three of the pu-

pills, an iron pestle was put into its mouth, to keep the jaws separated; and then a dram of opium, dissolved in four ounces of water, was poured into the stomach. After this, the pestle was removed, and the dog left free on the table.

“ In the space of twenty minutes the dog manifested a disposition to vomit, which was immediately checked by pressing the finger against the oesophagus. The opium, however, had no very sensible effect on the dog till the expiration of thirty minutes, when the dog was unable to stand upright.

“ When the opium was administered, the dog’s pulse was 120. In seven minutes after, it became 110, and gradually sunk to 90, which was the lowest point.

“ At the expiration of *thirty-three minutes* from the time the opium was given, the stomach was evacuated of its contents and washed by means of the instrument.

“ The instrument succeeded very well in the dog, which appeared to be little worse for the experiment. Mr. Read was in the theatre during the whole of the time, and superintended the use of the instrument; on quitting, he received the unanimous applause of those present.

“ Sir Astley Cooper, just after the experiment had been tried, looking at what had been removed from the stomach, smiled, and said that the instrument would do well for an alderman after a city feast.—(*A laugh.*)” **LANCET, Vol. I. No. 8.**

“ Sir Astley shook hands with Mr. Read, and complimented him on his ingenuity; observing, that had he lived in Greece, during the time of its splendour, instead of in

and, he would undoubtedly have been crowned with  
la. It might be made applicable, (observed Sir Astley)  
se purposes than one. It might be appended to the  
ter, it might be used in the rectum. Addressing him-  
o the students, Sir Astley alluded to the success of the  
ine, by observing, that there was evidently to be found  
e use of it a plausible and a very practicable method  
lodging the contents of the stomach ; which, he con-  
d, it would be advisable to do by this means, where  
m had been swallowed, previous to giving any medi-  
an antidote. Thus far, alone, it was of most valuable  
rtance to the profession, as well as to humanity at  
—  
— LANCET, Vol. I. No. 11.

After the successful experiment of emptying the stomach  
ormed by Mr. Scott upon Mr. Jukes, before Sir Astley  
per and his class, at the Theatre of St. Thomas's Hos-  
in December last, no doubt can be entertained of the  
rtance of this operation in cases of poisoning ; Sir Ast-  
cooper, in his Lecture on this subject, after advising the  
f emetics in cases of poisoning by laudanum, remarks  
llows :

I certainly think, however, after the experiment which  
had an opportunity of witnessing in this theatre, and  
of the dog in the other hospital, that the instrument for  
uating the stomach affords the best means of saving  
ns, who would otherwise perish under the influence of  
m. I mentioned to you on a former occasion the case  
he young lady who had taken opium, in which every  
ns which I could employ for the purpose of producing  
iting proved completely unavailing. When the œsophagus  
as lost its functions, which it soon does from the in-  
ce of opium, no stimulating substances will produce  
east effect upon it. I sat hour after hour, by the side  
us young lady, watching her progress to dissolution,

without being in the least able to prevent it. If, however, I had been acquainted with the instrument which has been since invented, I should have used it with the probability of success. This instrument enables us not merely to remove the poison from the stomach, but to throw in water in considerable quantities, and to introduce stimulating remedies after the opium is removed, for the purpose of restoring the functions of the Nervous system; and this in cases where emetics cannot be even swallowed. I certainly do expect the happiest results in such cases from the invention of this instrument. The man who first suggested such an idea deserves well of his country, and they who oppose it until the instrument has been fairly tried and found useless, must be destitute of understanding. Persons who object to a proposition merely because it is new, or who endeavour to detract from the merit of the man who first gives efficacy to a new idea by demonstrating its usefulness and applicability, are foolish, unmanly, envious, and illiberal objectors; they are unworthy of the designation either of professional men, or of gentlemen."—*LANCET*, Vol. III. No. 6, page 174.

In speaking of the treatment of poisoning by the oxymuriate of quicksilver, Sir Astley remarks :

" It may appear that I am disposed to think too well of the instrument to which I before adverted, when I state that I believe the Syringe may also be successfully employed for the purpose of removing the oxymuriate of mercury from the stomach. I should certainly prefer it to any other means; but instead of using simple water, I should throw in a quantity of soap and water, then withdraw it; I should repeat this operation until the stomach was entirely cleansed. It has been suggested that although this instrument may be used with success for the purpose of removing the vegetable poisons from the stomach, yet it would not

succeed in cases of poison by arsenic or corrosive sublimate. *This I do not believe.\** With respect to arsenic, I am aware that if it were taken in a solid form, and a considerable portion had fallen on the stomach it would be impossible to remove it; but as it is usually taken, in powder, I think the instrument is very capable of removing it, because it will be for a considerable time at least kept in solution by the mucus which is thrown from the surface of the stomach, and in this state it may be removed.† At all events this deserves a trial."—LANCET, Vol. III. No. 6, page 172.

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\* This opinion has been confirmed by a case which lately fell under the care of Mr. Jukes. A female, swallowed, by mistake, a quantity of corrosive sublimate, but instantly discovering the error, sent for Mr. J. who, having first administered a quantity of the white of egg to decompose the oxymuriate, passed the tube into the stomach, extracted its contents, and saved the patient from the severe and destructive effects of the poison. The quantity of the oxymuriate taken was twenty grains. A report of the case, by Mr. Campbell, a Surgeon, who assisted at the operation, may be seen in the Morning Chronicle Newspaper, of Friday, September 17, 1824.

† That metallic poison may be dislodged from the stomach, (by the Instrument,) even in a *solid* form, is now beyond a doubt. A case of this nature occurred a few days ago, in which a female had swallowed an ounce of sugar of lead. Copious vomiting had been produced by very powerful emetics, but the pain of the stomach remained extremely severe. Under these circumstances, Mr. Scott, assisted by Mr. Iliff, of the West London Dispensary, and Mr. Mason, Surgeon, of Newington, injected the stomach with warm water by the Patent Syringe, the force of which dislodged the poison adhering to the inner coat of this organ, and effectually removed the pain as soon as the fluid was withdrawn. In this case also the Syringe, as an enema apparatus, proved most essentially serviceable; for a portion of the lead having passed into the bowels, constipation and colic succeeded, which were removed by an injection of a solution of Epsom salts in warm water; six pints of which were thrown up.—Note to the Second Edition.

To put the utility of this instrument still further to the test of Professional opinion, Mr. Scott and Mr. Jukes in the month of February last, made a visit to the metropolis of France, and being furnished with letters from Sir Astley Cooper to the Physicians and Surgeons of the greatest rank and eminence in Paris, they had an opportunity of ascertaining the sentiments of the first professional characters in that city upon this subject. The operation was performed with the Patent Syringe in the house of Dr. Regnault, Physician to the King, and met with the perfect approbation of all present.

Notwithstanding that the successful application of the instrument had been fully demonstrated by reiterated experiments, and its practical utility attested by the highest medical authorities in Europe, efforts were made to disparage its character by setting up, as its opponent, the Syringe which had been first used by Mr. Scott and Mr. Jukes, but which they had *themselves abandoned!* The motive for this was that, the manufacture and sale of my instrument being protected by a patent, no other person could make, or vend it contrary to my permission, without incurring the just penalties which the law inflicts upon infringements of Patent rights, and a substitute therefore, which might be made and sold generally without risque,\* was set up, to preclude as far as possible, the circulation of my instrument (merely because it was not in the hands of the trade,) although I had from the first outset, allowed to Surgical instrument makers, a commission so liberal as to leave myself but a scanty remuneration for the great expences I had incurred. This *spurious* instrument (which in some instances has been palmed upon the profession as *mine*), is no other than the Syringe first manufactured by Mr. Gill. It resembles mine

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\* I shall shortly try in a British Court of Justice, whether the instrument in question is of this kind or not.

with the exception of being furnished with stop-cocks instead of valves ; this alteration it was considered, would evade the violation of my patent ; this is yet to be proved !\* As it would appear to be a prejudiced opinion if I were to give my own judgment upon this Syringe, I requested Mr. Scott, who has operated repeatedly with both instruments, to favor me with his opinion of its merits, and the following is an extract from his reply.

“ In using this Syringe, it is necessary that the Surgeon should have previously rendered himself well acquainted with the peculiarities of each stop-cock, to prevent an embarrassment in the operation, which happens upon the slightest inadvertence in managing them. The awkward trouble of repeatedly turning these stop-cocks during the different steps of this operation, is in itself a sufficient objection to the instrument, to say nothing of the confusion occasioned by mistaking the one for the other, which is extremely likely to happen in the moment of alarm, when even the Surgeon himself, perhaps, is not sufficiently cool and collected.”

To enable the professional reader to distinguish my Syringe from any other, and thus to prevent the fraud that has been long practised in substituting imitations, I shall here take leave to give a description of the “ Patent Syringe,” which is clearly elucidated by the Plate which accompanies the Pamphlet.

The Cylinder of the Pump or Syringe, (made in brass and in Silver,) is about seven inches in length, and one inch in diameter, contracted at its apex into a small opening for receiving the extremity of an elastic tube, which is passed in

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\* Since the first edition of this Pamphlet passed the press, I have been given to understand that some persons in the trade have ventured to make a Syringe with valves, but I have not yet been able to procure one so as to be enabled to bring the offenders to justice.

to the stomach. Within this opening is a chamber containing a spherioal valve, which, by rising into the upper part of the chamber, where a vacuum is formed by elevating the piston, admits the atmosphere (or whatever it may be desirable to operate upon) to pass freely into the Syringe, but as soon as the piston is depressed, the contents of the Syringe presses the valve close upon the aperture, and prevents its escape through the opening by which it was received.

To give exit to the contents of the Syringe, a side branch is constructed, furnished with a valved chamber, similar to the one above described, but so placed as to act in direct opposition to it, so that when the Syringe has been filled from the extremity, and pressure is made by depressing the piston, the fluid closes the lower valve, and opens the lateral one, and consequently escapes through the latter aperture. To facilitate the operation of the instrument, a small pipe communicates with the upper extremity of the Syringe, which gives free ingress and egress to the atmosphere during the action of the piston, a circumstance essentially necessary in causing the instrument to work easily and perfectly.\*

With this description every one will readily identify the instrument and prevent imposition being practised.

I cannot more clearly represent the motive with which the stop-cock Syringe is opposed to mine, under the name and apparent sanction of Mr. Jukes, than by inserting the following letter from this gentleman; by which I shall at once strip off the cloak that covers these transactions and show them in their true colours.

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\* The Royal Arms and the Patentee's name are engraved on the Syringe, without which none are genuine.

Pimlico, Nov. 1, 1824.

Sir,

The improvement you have lately made in giving more space around the valves of your Syringe meets with my unqualified approbation, and obviates all objections as to its capability of removing *metallic poison* from the stomach. In the experiments I have made with your improved Syringe, I find that every *solid* substance which can enter the tube, will readily pass the valves and be discharged, so that no failure is likely to happen in the operation from the Syringe becoming choked.

I am much annoyed that my name should be made the vehicle for circulating the Stop-cock Syringe, for I never proposed this nor any other Syringe for the purpose of emptying the stomach, the apparatus which I originally employed (as appears in the publication of my Experiments,) being simply an elastic *bottle* and tube only. I am so satisfied of the superior efficacy of your instrument, that I should not only be wanting in justice to your ingenuity, but I should be guilty of suffering my professional brethren to be misled by improper pretensions, if I did not publicly declare that there is *no* instrument sold under my sanction; and I hereby give you unlimited authority to publish it as my opinion, that your Patent Syringe is the instrument best adapted for the operation of emptying the stomach, that has hitherto been invented. As an enema apparatus, I consider your excellent invention above all praise, for in contributing to individual health and comfort, it should be in the possession of every private family; and for the sake of suffering humanity, and the credit of the medical profession, it ought ever to find a place in the instrument case of every Surgeon.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

To MR. JOHN READ.

EDWARD JUKES.

I must here take the opportunity of returning my sincere

thanks to Mr. Jukes for the candid and liberal manner in which he has thus publicly disavowed any part in the hostility manifested against me, while, at the same time, I trust that the statement with which he has been kind enough to favour me, will satisfy the reader that the opposition I have met with, neither originates with him, nor with the profession; mine is not a combat with *science*, but with *trading interest*.

The hostility evinced by certain instrument makers to the success of my Syringe, has been shown in the most malignant manner; they have even, when obliged to furnish my instrument by peremptory order, basely mutilated and injured it previous to its being sent off, that it might be unfit for use, and get a bad character. To shew that this has been done, I beg the readers attention to the following letters.

( 3 )

SIR,

Tenterden, 28th July 1824.

I write to say that a friend of mine sent to London, by my recommendation, for one of your Injecting Instruments, but when it came, it was different *and had not the Arms on it*, consequently was returned, and then one of your's, I believe, was sent in a wooden case, charged three\* guineas, but so imperfect, that it was also returned, being much larger and heavier than mine, and the tubes of different circumference, united so badly, that thread was bound round the brass to make them hold together, but the tubes came off abundantly. *If these tricks* are to be played with you I much fear you will not be paid for your Patent. I wish you to send one immediately to the Rev. Mr. \* \* \* \* \*, at \* \* \* \* \*, to be left at the River Head, by the Rye Coach.

Your humble Servant,

To Mr. READ.

JOHN MACE, Sen.

The following letter is from a highly esteemed medical practitioner in the county of Kent.

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The price ought to have been only two guineas and a half.

( 4 )

SIR,

*Hawkhurst*, 1824.

In the very early part of September, having been from home some weeks on the score of ill health, I called at a Gentleman's in Tavistock Place, to enquire after some of my old neighbours, and to my great regret, I found one of them (Mr. Gregson, whom you knew very well,) in the House suffering under severe inflammation of Bowels, with obstruction. He had come out of Leicestershire the morning before I called, and was attacked with his complaint in about an hour after his arrival. Medical advice was immediately had, and every thing had been done that skill could devise, but injections had been only thrown up by a Pipe and Bladder. I immediately recommended your Injection Apparatus most strongly, having in my own practice more than once considered that a patient's life had been saved by its use. I sent a messenger after one to Mr. \* \* \* \*, in \* \* \* \* \* from the urgency of the case I thought it a long time before he returned, and when he did, I had the mortification to find the instrument could not be used, the Screws and Receivers none of them fitted each other; another was sent for, and after a long delay, a very different one from your's was sent with a Pipe not large enough for a Child. All chance from any good being effected by the means contemplated was now going very fast, and, indeed, Mr. G. died in about 48 hours afterwards. I called on Mr. \* \* \* \*, and told him how cruelly I had been disappointed, and that unpardonable blame attached to those that suffered the Apparatus to be sent out in so inefficient a state. \* \* \* \* \*

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I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

To Mr. READ.

## EDWARD YOUNG.

In reference to the above Letters, I must remark, that all the Instruments furnished by me to the person who sold them, were in the most perfect state when delivered to him ; how and why they came otherwise, he can very well explain.

It is also a common practice with certain instrument makers when asked for my Syringe, to reply that they do not sell it on account of its inefficiency, but that they can furnish one of *their own* making, quite unobjectionable !!

I cannot avoid here taking the liberty to urge the necessity of every Surgeon being provided with this double apparatus, and particularly the part for removing poisons, as cases may occur to a practitioner at a time when he has no means of saving the life of the patient. Such a lamentable circumstance actually occurred lately even in this very city. A professional Gentleman residing at the West-end of the Town was called to a patient who had taken poison, but not having an apparatus by him, so much delay was occasioned in procuring one, that before it arrived the unfortunate person expired.

I shall now proceed to describe the action of the Syringe in removing poisons from the stomach.

The Apparatus consists of the pump; œsophagus tube; three leathern tubes; three ivory pipes (these last, with the third leathern tube, are used only for Enemas); and a detached brass socket. The upper left hand figure in the plate, represents the operation of injecting fluids into the stomach, to dilute the poison, previous to its extraction; this is effected in the following manner. Screw the two first lengths of the leathern tubing, to the *lateral* branch of the Syringe, and next the detached socket, to the extremity of the former. The œsophagus tube is now to be passed into the stomach, which being done, insert the brass joint at its extremity, into the socket at the end of the leathern tubes; the fluid to be injected being put into a basin or other shallow vessel, the end of the Syringe is immersed in it, and the piston being put into action, any quantity may be thrown into the stomach that may be desired.

To evacuate the stomach, separate the œsophagus tube from the socket (leaving the latter attached to the leathern

tubes) without withdrawing it from the throat, and insert it into the extremity of the Syringe; let an assistant now hold a vessel to the end of the leathern tube, and by working the piston, the contents of the stomach may speedily be pumped into it, as is shewn in the under figure of the drawing. By thus transferring the end of the oesophagus tube from one situation to the other, the two processes of washing and emptying the stomach may be repeated as often as is judged necessary by the operator. Thus it is seen that the Syringe is furnished with two valvular apertures, through *one of which* the contents of the stomach passes into the cylinder, and are then immediately forced through *the other*, into the receiving vessel. This double operation is effected by repeated strokes of the piston, which slides so easily, that an infant may use it. The manner in which the Syringe is held in the two separate operations, is very important. In the first, as is seen in the plate, a perpendicular position is the most eligible; but in the second, the Syringe must be held in an *inclined* position, at about an angle of  $45^{\circ}$ , with the lateral tube *upwards*. These positions preserve the valves upon their proper bearings, without which, the instrument cannot act perfectly.\*

In cases of retention of urine, it frequently happens that in consequence of haemorrhage and other causes, the catheter becomes so obstructed that the bladder cannot be emptied: It was suggested to Mr. Scott by Dr. Cloquet, a celebrated Surgeon of Paris, to effect this purpose by fixing a pump to the catheter. The Patent Syringe performs this operation with extreme facility, and has been honoured with the entire approbation of Dr. Cloquet. For injecting the bladder, which is an operation every day becoming more frequent, it is of course equally eligible. For these purposes I have constructed elastic gum catheters to be fixed to the Syringe.

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\* If the Surgeon does not strictly comply with this direction, he will fail in the operation.

As an Apparatus for conveying nourishment into the stomach of Persons afflicted with Stricture of the Oesophagus, the Patent Syringe is found to possess obvious advantages.\*

This Pump is also capable of being adjusted to cupping-glasses, by which any degree of exhaustion can be made that the operator desires ; and in the same manner it may be rendered a very effectual Instrument for drawing the breasts of puerperal females. I have had glasses made for these uses, which may be obtained with the rest of the Apparatus.

The upper right-hand figure in the plate, represents the Syringe with a Canister, for the purpose of injecting Tobacco smoke into the intestines. It is used in the following manner: Unscrew the cap of the canister, and take out the perforated plunger; put in the tobacco (half an ounce or an ounce) and replace the plunger lightly upon it; then put on the cap and screw it to the end of the Syringe; hold a lighted candle close under the bottom of the canister, and a stroke or two of the piston of the Syringe will light the tobacco. The enema tubes being now fixed to the side branch, and the pipe introduced into the rectum, the tobacco smoke is forced into the intestines as long as the Syringe is worked in the usual manner.

I have lastly to speak of my Syringe, as an instrument for administering Enemas, which was the original intention for which it was constructed, and in this point of view, it is of the highest importance. On this subject I have been favored with the following remarks from the pen of Mr. Scott, and I gladly avail myself of his permission to insert them.

“ The objects of administering Enemas, are considered to be of three kinds. 1st. For softening and diluting retained

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\* Stimulating liquids ought also to be carefully thrown into the stomach of persons under suspended animation from drowning, &c.

faeces. 2ndly. For stimulating the bowels and thus provoking evacuations; and 3dly. For producing mechanical distension.

" It must be obvious to every medical practitioner, how very inadequate the old Apparatus of the pipe and bladder is, to the completion of these objects, and thence it is, that various instruments have been at different times devised to remedy the deficiency; but ingenuity had been exercised in vain, and the profession were still in need of an instrument to effect these valuable ends, until the " Patent Syringe" supplied the desired means. It had, hitherto, been the custom of Surgeons, in administering enemas, to throw up, three quarters of a pint or a pint of fluid, and a clyster, even in the severest cases, rarely exceeded the latter quantity. Now, by an attention to the anatomical structure of the lower intestines, it must be apparent, that such a quantity would be incapable of effecting more than a mere solution of the fæculent matter contained in the *rectum*, and of stimulating this bowel *only*; for the calibre of the *rectum* is so great, that under ordinary circumstances, it can of itself contain a pint of fluid. Most commonly, the cause of constipation exists in the colon; how then can the disease be relieved or removed by a clyster that is expended before it reaches this part of the canal? It will be urged, perhaps, that the superior bowels will be affected sympathetically, when the lower bowel is stimulated; but, granting this to be fact, how desirable is it to *ensure* the good effects of an enema by administering a quantity sufficient to reach the offending part of the intestinal tube! But this could not be done by any of the existing instruments, as not one of them was of a size to contain a sufficient quantity of fluid; and, if they had been, it would have required a greater degree of power to force it into the bowels, than could have been conveniently or safely directed. I may, perhaps, be asked, why a large quantity could not be applied by recharging the instrument, or by discharging other instruments ready filled, and placed at hand for that purpose? I need not point out the fallacy of this argument to medical men practically acquainted with

the operation; for they are well aware of the difficulties which suspending the operation would present to the introduction of *separate* portions of fluid, as the *conatus ejiciendi* is, generally, so quickly excited, as to leave but a short interval between the injection and expulsion."

An instrument was therefore wanted, that was capable of throwing up any quantity desired, in one continuous operation, and the Patent Syringe most completely effects this. Again, mechanical distension can only be effected by an instrument affording power with volume; an attention to hydraulic principles shows how both these are yielded by the Syringe I have constructed. The bulk of the fluid contained in the instrument is so small, that the force necessary to propel it, scarcely requires the efforts of an infant; but the effects of these efforts, multiplied by repetition, increase to an almost infinite ratio, and at length present an overwhelming force, capable of bearing down all opposition, and overcoming all natural restraints. To try the power of the syringe, I fixed the injecting pipe firmly into the rectum of an Animal that had been recently killed, and proceeded to pump into the bowels a large quantity of water, and I continued the operation with the same ease and freedom, until the intestinal canal, stretched beyond its tone, burst with the distending force.

In corroboration of the good effects of this instrument in obstructions of the bowels, I shall take leave to extract the following remarks from some of the most respectable medical publications of the present time.

\* Dr. Chisholm has related a case of obstinate constipation of the bowels, relieved by *Read's Injecting Machine*, after various other means had failed. The obstruction had existed three or four days before Dr. Chisholm saw the patient with Mr. Beet, Surgeon, of Ashford. When seen by Dr. Chisholm, the patient's extremities were cold, and stercoreaceous vomiting had come on. A tepid solution of

yellow soap was prepared, and more than a *wash-hand basin full* was gradually but perseveringly thrown up by means of the instrument above mentioned, and prevented from returning by napkins pressed to the anus. *The patient's belly now resembled a drum.* When the injection was allowed to come away, the spectators had the gratification to find it mixed with faeces. Shortly after this, the patient passed flatus and stools, and all the bad symptoms quickly vanished. I have had many other cases" says Dr. Chisholm, "where Read's Machine was of infinite service, and I think every medical practitioner should have one in his possession."—(*Med. Repos. No. 1, New Series, Page 941.*)

The Author of "*The Village Doctor*," under the article costiveness, (page 104,) makes the following remark : But the use of clysters is in every way preferable to purgative medicines, and those who are costive should provide themselves with "*Read's Patent Syringe*," and administer a pint of the domestic enema every day at a certain hour, until the bowels act without."

The following remarks are to be seen in Dr. Johnson's Quarterly Review.

" For many months past we have been in the habit of employing Mr. Read's Patent Injecting Apparatus, which is so small as to be carried in the waistcoat pocket, and so powerful as to throw fluids to a great distance. The object of our present notice, however, is to inform our readers that Mr. Read has adapted to the Instrument, a flexible elastic tube, most admirably calculated for throwing fluids into the stomach, and then extracting them, in cases of poisoning. We have attentively examined the instrument, and we know it is approved of by Sir A. Cooper, and some of the first Surgeons of the Metropolis; we think it of so much importance, that we seriously recommend it to every private practitioner." Vol. 4, No. 15, page 742, of the Medico-Chirurgical Review.

In treating upon Iliac Passion, an author before mention-

ed, says " a copious injection of six or eight quarts of warm water, or gruel, will be the most likely means of removing the obstruction, restoring the bowels to their proper situation, and of softening and bringing away those hardened motions, which accumulate in the bowels and occasion the complaint. For this purpose (as well as for the injection of tobacco smoke,) *Read's Patent Syringe* is preferable to all other instruments, and should be in the possession of every family." Scott's "Village Doctor," page 166.

I am informed by some Medical Gentlemen who have used it, that in violent cases of *Menorrhagia*, they have been able to check the disease more effectually by an alum injection, thrown by the force which the Patent Syringe affords, than by any other means.

I cannot pass over the following letter without presenting it to the readers attention, coming as it does from a practitioner respected for his talents and observation.

( 5 )

"MR. READ,

I am desirous of informing you, that I have had frequent opportunities of using your valuable Instrument in cases of violent inflammation and obstruction of the bowels, and it has succeeded beyond all expectation in affording relief to my patients. So fully convinced am I, of the superiority of your Injecting Syringe over any other instrument made for the same purpose, that I have no hesitation in asserting that it is invaluable to medical men, and it is my opinion, that almost every private family should be in possession of it.

" You are at liberty to make what use you please of this Letter.

I am, your's, &c. &c.

Goudhurst, Jan. 20, 1822.

SAML. P. NEWINGTON."

Whilst correcting the proofs of these pages, I unexpectedly received the following letter, for which, and for the handsome manner in which it was communicated, I am de-

sirous of thus publicly expressing my humble but sincere thanks. The nature of the case, and the success that resulted from the judicious management of it, by Mr. Witt, both contribute to render it a subject of interest to the medical profession, and remove, therefore, any necessity of an apology for my introducing it.

( 6 )

*General Infirmary, Northampton, Dec. 4, 1824.*

SIR,

I am directed by the Committee of Governors of this Infirmary, to convey to you their approbation of your Instrument for extracting poisons from the stomach, and to give you the details of a case in which it was used with complete success.

A boy, nine years of age, was discovered at eight o'clock in the morning of the 12th ult. in nearly a lifeless state. On investigation it was ascertained that he had taken, by mistake, a solution of opium, three hours before. He was lying in a deep stupor, his respiration very slow, and accompanied with a convulsive catching; his feet, hands, and face livid, and no pulse to be felt at the wrist. He was immediately roused up, and violently shaken, when he uttered a few incoherent cries. A quart of warm water was instantly injected into the stomach by means of your Syringe, and then withdrawn; the fluid was brown, and the smell of opium plainly perceptible. Another quantity of water was then thrown in, and withdrawn; it returned colorless and without any smell.

The boy was now moved continually about for some time, and his senses gradually returned. As soon as he could swallow, he was made to drink two ounces of Ipecacuanha Wine, with a drachm of Sulphate of Zinc, dissolved in half a pint of warm water. This not operating, in twenty minutes a second dose was given as strong as the first, and in ten minutes afterwards the boy showed a disposition to vomit; this was effectually excited by injecting a hand-basin full of warm water, by

which I made sure that his stomach should be completely washed of any remains of the poison. After the vomiting was over, he was kept in motion for three or four hours, taking at intervals a strong decoction of coffee: by the afternoon of the same day I had the pleasure of finding him perfectly well.

It is almost unnecessary to observe, that as the opium had been swallowed three hours, (and that too upon an empty stomach,) no emetic medicine would have operated until the poison was withdrawn; the fibres of the stomach being rendered perfectly inert by the stupefactive effect of the drug; indeed he had totally lost the power of swallowing; it is therefore pretty evident, that the boy's life would not have been saved, but for the very useful Instrument of which you have the merit of being the inventor.

I am, Sir,

With much respect,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES WITT,

*House Surgeon.*

Approved,

C. BOUVERIE,

*Chairman of the Committee.*

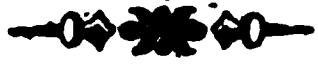
To Mr. READ.

I shall close my subject by the following explanation of the manner of using the Enema Apparatus. Fix the leathern tubes to the lateral branch of the Syringe (either two or three, as may be most convenient to the position chosen for the operation), and put the fluid to be injected, into a wash-hand basin or other convenient vessel; the ivory pipe being inserted into the rectum, and the extremity of the Syringe into the fluid, the pump may be worked, either by the patient or some other person; but the facility with which it can be accomplished by the former, renders it truly valuable for domestic use.

30, *Bridge House Place,*  
*Newington Causeway, London.*

December 28, 1824.

**READ'S**  
**NEW IMPROVED PATENT SYRINGE,**  
**FOR DOMESTIC & HORTICULTURAL PURPOSES.**

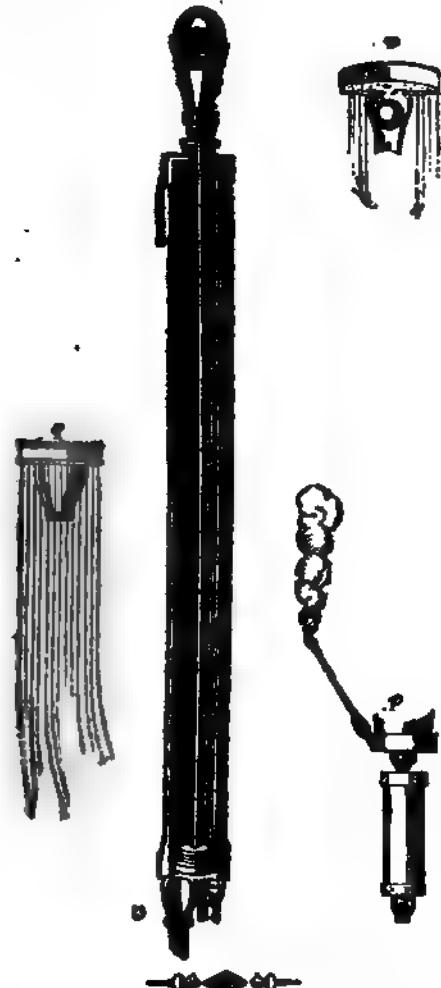


THE Public are respectfully solicited to the Inspection of this Instrument, which for its convenience and utility in Domestic and Horticultural Purposes, claims universal regard. For watering Pines and all other plants in Conservatories and Hot-houses; and for the destruction of Insects upon trees in Forcing-houses or on Walls, it far exceeds the Barrow-engine in the facility of its application. The Horticultural Society of London, to mark their approbation of it, have been pleased to honour the Patentee by conferring upon him their Silver Medal for the Invention. It has of late been much used for washing the Windows of Houses and Carriages, and is found to be a most effective apparatus for Fumigating Trees and Hot-houses.

This Instrument also, in case of need, is an excellent Fire-engine, as from its portability it can be applied, upon the first breaking out of a Fire, when no sort of assistance could be derived from the Engines of the Insurance Companies, and its utility in this way having been proved by actual experience, most of the Fire Offices have prepared themselves with it, and it is now, very properly finding its way into Private Families, as a safeguard against the destructive and hazardous effects of Fire.

*Section of the Horticultural Syringe.*

- a.—Cap for destroying Insects on Wall-trees and Plants.
- b.—Cap for Watering Forcing-houses and trees in Blossom.
- c.—Cap for Extinguishing Fires.
- d.—Cap for the Tobacco Fumigation.



*EXPLANATION OF ITS USE.*

The Cap a is to be screwed on when the Syringe is used for washing away Insects from Peach, Nectarine, and Apricot Trees. Set a pot

of water near the stem of the tree, and having charged the Syringe, throw the shower between the tree and the wall, directing it against the *back* surface of the leaves, where the insects are placed, by which mode, the fluid effectually and speedily sweeps off both the insects and their eggs and larvæ, and thus prevents a succession of these injurious animalculæ. The Barrow Engine can only be brought to play upon the *front* of fruit trees, and dislodges, therefore, the insects but very imperfectly, without removing, in the least, their eggs, that stick upon the under surface of the leaf. This Cap is also used for watering Pines.

The Cap b, has smaller perforations than the above, and as it throws the fluid in a light and gentle moisture, almost like a dew-fall, is particularly eligible for sprinkling Forcing Houses of all descriptions, and Trees in bloom, and not only clears the latter of insects, but deposits the water in such a gentle manner upon the leaves, that, if it be applied at night, preserves the plant moist until the next morning, materially tends to its nourishment and health, and prevents the formation of animalculæ, which breed rapidly in the *dry* heat perish by moisture. The Practical Gardener is aware of this, and takes care, during warm weather, to supply his trees with moisture while their buds are forming and before the blossom expands. This Cap is used also for washing the leaves of trees, plants, and vegetables when frost-nipped in the cold nights that often prevail during the spring; it should of course be done before sun-rise.

The Cap c is used for extinguishing fire and for washing the coarser sorts of trees, as Pears, Plumbs, Cherries, &c. against walls, and for general watering in lieu of the Barrow Engine, and in this way can be applied more efficaciously than the latter, as it may be brought into immediate contact with the plant, or applied in any direction that may be desirable, which the Barrow Engine cannot, on account of the impracticability of bringing it over the beds.

By the application of the Syringe there is no useless expenditure of water, and it is generally found that two, or at most three charges is sufficient for a large tree.

The Fumigating canister d, is used in the following manner. Having fitted the brass tube to the side opening, unscrew the top, take

out the perforated plunger, and put about an ounce (or as much as is desired) of tobacco (or tobacco paper, as it is called) into the canister, replace the plunger and allow it to sink upon the tobacco with its own weight only, and having put on the top, screw it to the Syringe, and next apply a piece of lighted paper to the nozzle of the canister, when one or two strokes of the piston sufficiently lights the tobacco, the fumes of which instantly pass in a copious dense stream from the extremity of the side tube, and may thus be readily conveyed to any plant, or even to any part of a plant. When applied to beds of roses or to plants under walls, the operation is greatly facilitated by throwing a piece of canvas over the bed, or hanging it against the wall so as to cover the trees. The canister is not liable to become choked as the Fumigating Bellows are, but continues to act freely until the tobacco is entirely consumed.

The Patentee, after an active and extensive experience of Forty Years in Practical Gardening, humbly offers the above explanation of the uses of his Garden Syringe to the attention of young Horticulturists, who may not despise a few simple but useful hints.

The above Instrument, as well as the Surgical Syringe, is sold by PERRY, Poultry; STODART, Strand; MILLIKIN, Strand; THOMPSON, Great Windmill-street; EVANS, Old Change; Messrs. MANLEY and STONE, Paternoster Row; SIMPSON and SMITH, Strand; NEWINGTON and TOMPSETT, 24, Whitechapel; WHITTAKER, Blackman Street, Borough; BUTLER, St. Paul's Church Yard; GLAZIER and KEMP, Brighton; BULL, Lewes; MOORE, Maidstone; FRY, Tunbridge Wells; NYE, Tunbridge; ELLIOTT, Ashford; ABLITT, Ipswich; BEDFORD, Leeds; SEARLE, Leeds; PAUL, Bury; TUCK, Bath; MANDER and WEAVER, Wolverhampton; by most Nurserymen and Furnishing Iron-mongers, and by J. READ, the Patentee, No. 30, Bridge House-place, Newington Causeway, Southwark.

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Neither of the above Instruments are genuine except Stamped with the Royal Arms and Patentee's Name.

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

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No. 111.]

To MARCH 1, 1825.

[VOL. X.

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## PHYSIC.

### COSTIVENESS—(continued from p. 48.)

*Treatment of Costiveness attendant on Indigestion.*—Costiveness is generally noticed among the symptoms of indigestion; but experience has satisfied our minds that indigestion is much more frequently the consequence of costiveness, than costiveness is of indigestion. Professor Cullen particularly notices costiveness as a symptom of indigestion; and Dr. Good, in his chapter on Indigestion, observes, “the debility, and indeed torpitude of the intestinal canal, is evident from the *habitual costiveness* which so *peculiarly characterises* this affection; and nothing, says he, can be a stronger proof of the great *inactivity* of the intestinal tube, from whatever cause produced, than the feebleness of its peristaltic motion notwithstanding the *pungency* of the acid, and other acrimonious matter that are so frequently found in the stomach, and hence so frequently diffusing their asperity over its inner surface.” If the costiveness be a symptom, or the consequence of indigestion, it cannot with propriety be termed *habitual*; and as to the acid which forms in the stomach, it is well known to be *astringent*, and consequently favours constipation. With respect to the diffused action of other pungent acrimonious humours not increasing the peristaltic motion so as to obviate costiveness, it is well known, that when the faeces from retention, become acrimonious, they so far increase the peristaltic motion as to occasion violent purging, and sometimes inflammatory action. On the prevailing opinion, that diminution of the peristaltic motion is a consequence of a want of tone in the muscular coats of the intestines, Dr. Hamilton makes the following judicious observation:—“Be this as it may, I am inclined to think that the symptoms referred to loss of tone, proceed on many occasions more directly from the *impeded* peristaltic motion, the *consequence* of constipation.” “In this situation,” says the doctor, “we may easily understand, that the distended colon, cannot for want of space, receive the contents of the small intestines, which will of course stagnate throughout the whole canal; the action of which being thus interrupted, will soon altogether cease, and be at last inverted. The various ailments which thence ensue are daily before our eyes, and the relief which, under these circumstances, we observe to follow soon after the exhibition of a purgative; and the cessation of complaint upon its operating freely by stool, are, in proof, that this opinion is well founded.”—When the intestines are so overloaded with faeces, as to impede the peristaltic motion, it is not to be expected that the

stomach will continue to perform its office; and as to the beneficial effects of an aperient medicine on the stomach in removing dyspeptic symptoms, without the aid of a stomachic or tonic medicine, they are known to every patient who has taken one under such circumstances; and every honest practitioner of experience and observation, we think, will agree in opinion with us, that ninety-nine cases of indigestion out of every hundred of common occurrence, arise from neglect of the bowels; and, generally speaking, if proper attention be paid to the state of the intestines, the stomach will take care of itself. The baneful effects of over-distension of the intestinal tube from constipation, is not confined to the stomach and intestines; for the descending aorta and its ramifications being compressed by the distended bowels, the blood is conveyed in too great a quantity to the upper part of the body, occasioning head-ach, difficulty of breathing, a full pulse, and increased heat in the upper extremities, while the temperature of the lower extremities is reduced in consequence of the circulation of blood to them being checked. Hence costiveness is a common fore-runner of apoplexy, epilepsy, pulmonary consumption, and a great variety of other diseases. Indeed, the beneficial effects of purging in cases of congestion of the vessels of the head and lungs, frequently arise from the removal of the mechanical causes of the retarded or checked circulation in the abdominal viscera and lower extremities, by liberating as it were the descending aorta and the other blood vessels of the abdomen, and not from preventing absorption of chyle, and diminishing the quantity of circulating fluid, by hurrying the chyle through the intestinal canal, as some practitioners imagine; for in congestion or inflammation of the lungs or brain, unaccompanied with constipation, purging medicines, even when they produce frequent copious evacuations, make little or no impression.

By *digestion* in the animal economy, is understood not only the conversion of food in the stomach into chyme, but the production of chyle from the chyme in the upper portion of the intestines, termed duodenum: and when the process is imperfect, it is termed *indigestion*; that is, the food is not properly converted into chyme, and, consequently, the chyle produced in the duodenum, cannot be healthy or fit for the nourishment of the body. By these processes in the stomach and duodenum, the specific or chemical differences in animal and vegetable food are destroyed; the chyle from different aliments, either taken singly or together, being of the same chemical or sensible properties; hence the process of digestion is termed assimilation. Notwithstanding the ingenuity of the most eminent ancient and modern physiologists has been exercised, or rather exhausted, in attempts to account for the process of digestion, we are still at a great distance from any theory that satisfactorily accounts for all the different appearances. Hippocrates attributed the conversion of aliment into chyme, to a putrefactive process; Pringle and Marbridge, to a fermentative process; and the celebrated physiologist, Haller, to a joint action of solution and fermentation; the difference of which consists more in the language than in opinions. Van Helmont ascribed it to the energy of his archens, which resides in the stomach; and fanciful as the idea may appear to be in language, the process

is unquestionably very intimately connected with the *vital principle*.\*

By the most modern physiologists the changes that take place in the aliment in the stomach, are attributed either to fermentation or solution, but each give a due share to the previous division of the food by mastication, combination with saliva, a certain degree of temperature, from 98 to 100, Farh. and gentle agitation by the action of the muscular fibres of the stomach, producing a regular, progressive, and retrograde motion. Those who contend that digestion is a simple solution, (an opinion which is generally maintained by the medical profession of this country) assert that it is effected by a peculiar secretion of certain glands of the stomach, which they term the gastric juice, and which from its action on different articles of the three kingdoms of nature, according to their account, may be considered nearly an universal solvent. The reports of Hunter, and the experiments of many physiologists of Europe, are greatly in favour of this opinion; but when we so frequently meet with the products of fermentation in the stomach, as acetic acid and carbonic acid gas, it is not improbable that the separation of the particles of food, and its conversion into the slimy mass termed chyme, are effected by a peculiar fermentative process excited by the gastric juice; and when the temperature of the stomach runs too high, or when the gastric juice is not healthy or deficient in quantity, the peculiar fermentative process is imperfect, rapidly running into the acetous stage: be this as it may, all must agree that the circumstances necessary for a healthy digestion, are

1stly, A proper mastication of the food, and a thorough mixture of it with saliva.

2dly, A certain degree of temperature of the stomach, from 98 to 100, Farh.

3dly, A certain quantity of healthy gastric juice.

4thly, A certain degree of power of the muscular fibres of the stomach, and of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles.

5thly, A free state of the intestines.

By indigestion, as we have already observed, is understood an

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\* Van Helmont termed the power which superintends the animal economy, *archeus*. However language has diversified the nature and operation of this principle, and the idea has been ridiculed by modern Atheists, who wish to convince themselves that all is material, and consequently that there is no future state; the existence of such a power in the animal system, by correcting accidental deviations from health, repairing local injuries, and preserving the body in a sound state, must appear obvious to every practitioner of observation. When *NATURE* is said to act, such a principle is implied. Van Helmont, who evidently possessed a sound judgment and extensive knowledge, placed his *archeus* (the grand regulator of the animal machine,) in the stomach; and the fact of the tendinous part of meat and parts of aliment, which had not been properly masticated, being returned from the stomach to the mouth, seems to favour this opinion.

imperfect dissolution of the food in the stomach, which is technically termed *dyspepsy*, signifying, badly concocted food. This complaint, with which almost every person in the high and even middle classes of society is more or less affected, is noticed by Cullen as a *primary* disease, a genus of the order adynamiae, from diminution of natural or vital involuntary power, and by all writers ancient and modern it is ascribed to *debility* of the stomach. The imperfect conversion of food into chyme, or the non-digestion of the food in the stomach after being properly masticated, it must appear obvious to every person of common sense, must be the consequence of a disordered state of the stomach itself; and every practitioner of observation must admit that that disorder or condition of the stomach is frequently of an opposite nature. Indigestion is as common, if not more so, in robust as in weakly subjects; in people whose stomachs, from frequent stimulation and indulgence in savory dishes and vinous or spirituous liquors, are in a state of excessive excitement, and in direct opposition to that of debility. The fact is, the temperature of the stomach is much above the healthy standard, the secretion of gastric juice is unhealthy, and the muscular fibres of the stomach in consequence of over-distension, are not capable of performing their office of agitating the contents; the consequence of which is, a rapid fermentative process takes place, of which acetic acid and carbonic gas, often in considerable quantity, are the products. By this over-stimulation of the stomach, and the unhealthy products in it, the functions of the brain are disturbed, and the action of the heart accelerated, so that a feverish state of the whole system is kept up. The indigestion of inebriates and gluttons is in fact the consequence of a state of stomach opposite to that of debility. The disordered state of the stomach, of which indigestion is a consequence, may again arise from organic disease, either of the pyloric or cardiac portion of the stomach, which in the first stage is in an opposite state to that of debility. The stomach, again, is frequently disordered by sympathy. A plethoric state of the system, by disturbing or compressing the brain, or by oppressing the heart, will disorder the stomach and occasion bad digestion, and in such case the cause is not debility.

In fact, the non-conversion of food into healthy chyme, termed indigestion, is the consequence not only of a variety of disorders (primary and sympathetio) of the stomach, but of disorders diametrically opposite; and, under no circumstance, in our opinion, can a mere imperfect process be termed a primary disease, being only the consequence of some disease or disorder of the organ itself: and whoever considers the great variety and opposite nature of diseases or disorders of the different organs of the body, especially of the stomach, must be convinced of the absurdity of publishing a dissertation on indigestion, as a primary disease, and on laying down general instruction as to medicine, diet, &c. &c., for its treatment, or—as the legitimate physicians, who cannot extend their views of disease beyond the process of digestion, and the secretion of the liver, say—for the cure of indigestion!!

In cases of indigestion from nervous excitement, the consequence of the regular abuse of vinous or spirituous liquors, or savoury dishes, it is a common practice to unload the alimentary canal two or three

times a week, by an active purgative, and to administer a bitter infusion two or three times a day, to *strengthen* the stomach; and such treatment generally proves beneficial; the bitter infusion—as columbo, quassia, and gentian, like many other vegetable bitters, with little or no astringent principle, being sedatives; but the continued use of such intense bitters, and the frequent exhibition of a drastic purgative, will assuredly, sooner or later, produce such a state of the alimentary canal as will rapidly terminate in death. Indeed, there is no fact better established in medicine, than that a regular use of a strong bitter will produce in the course of five or six years, a fatal paralysis of the stomach.

A surgeon of London emphatically observed to a dyspeptic patient, who insisted on his hearing his narrative of symptoms, “ Well, Sir, your complaint is the natural consequence of gluttony and drunkenness; and let me candidly tell you, that your application to me does me honour, because in you I have a *Beast* for a patient. I would with pleasure physic a dog that had overgorged himself, but for a man, who possesses the gift of reason, I can find no excuse. Go, Sir, and read Cornaro’s excellent little work, and if you cannot abandon your mode of living, take up your abode with pigs. Well Sir, replied the patient, we are on an equality, for if you have a Beast for a patient, I have a *Brute* for a Doctor.

A common cause of indigestion in this country, particularly among sedentary and studious people, is unquestionably an over-loaded state of the intestines from costiveness; for even in the cases from over-stimulation, or from gluttony, it is of great importance to maintain a regular state of bowels, in order to prevent mischief in the brain or lungs. For this purpose, the extract of jalap may be taken, as recommended; page 4, for habitual costiveness; but if the stomach has suffered from continued bad digestion, or over-stimulation, a stomachic will be necessary, such as the alkaline tincture of fumitory, two or three tea-spoonsful of which may be taken in a wine-glassful of water.

When the stomach is evidently in a state of great debility, either from a long continued indulgence in spirits, wines, stimulating diet, or from age, two or three tea-spoonsful of the aromatic tincture of quinine\* may be taken two or three times a day, in a glass of water, in lieu of the alkaline tincture of fumitory. The auxiliaries to these remedies, in diet, exercise, &c. &c., we have particularly noticed in our fifth and sixth numbers.

*Treatment of Costiveness of Epileptic Subjects.*—Three species of epilepsy are noticed by Professor Cullen, viz. primary, sympathetic, and occasional.

1st. The *cerebral* epilepsy, when it is dependent on some organic disease or disorder of the brain, or morbid condition of its membranes, or surrounding bone, which occasionally disturbs its functions, principally by its mechanical action.

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\* This tincture is made by dissolving a drachm of quinine in a pint of infusion of canella alba in brandy. The tincture of canella alba was a very favourite remedy with Dr. Baillie, for the indigestion of elderly people; but being aromatic, only a tonic addition, as quinine, is necessary to render its effects permanent.

2dly, Sympathetic epilepsy, when excited by some morbid action of a remote part, with a peculiar sensation of a cold vapour ascending from it to the head, termed the *epileptic aura*, or some other admonitory symptom; and,

3dly, The occasional epilepsy, arising from an evident irritating cause, on the removal of which the disease terminates. Of the causes of this species, Professor Cullen notices nine:

1st. Injury of the head.

2dly. Severe pain.

3dly. Worms in some part of the intestinal canal.

4thly. Poison.

5thly. Repulsion of a cutaneous eruption.

6thly. Disordered stomach.

7thly. Mental agitation or over-exertion.

8thly. Excessive loss of blood.

9thly. Debility.

Epilepsy probably depends on several causes: as a partial change of structure or productions in the substance of the brain; disease in its membranes, disease or mal-formation of the skull bone, which occasionally disturb its functions, *i. e.* when the brain is irritable, or in a state of extra-excitement; and some peculiar constitution of the brain, or nervous system, which renders it too susceptible of mental or corporeal influence, independent of structural derangement, and consequently not discoverable on dissection.

Whether the disease depends on tubercles or hydatids in the brain, or any morbid change of structure, tuberculated state of the membranes, or malformation, caries, &c., of the skull-bone, or a peculiar construction of brain, the object of treatment is the same; viz. to quiet the cerebral system, so that it may be not disturbed by the causes which immediately bring the malady into action, and, as far as is practicable, to avoid or remove the exciting causes, as worms in the intestinal canal; irritation in the stomach, from imperfect digestion; mental perturbation; costiveness; plethora; over-stimulation of the stomach; extra-corporeal or mental exertion, &c. &c.

Within the last century every year has produced a *specific remedy* for epileptic fits, some of which have been found to increase the interval of recurrence, but we believe not one has ever succeeded in curing true cerebral epilepsy.

The nitrate of silver has succeeded in many cases in suspending a paroxysm, probably in consequence of relieving the brain by producing a determination of blood, &c. to the stomach by its local stimulating action; we say local, because when the effect is extended to the brain and nervous system, as in cases of intoxication, the disease often comes into action. The missettoe, the rhatany root, the Peruvian bark, and other tonics, have in many cases afforded temporary relief, in consequence of preventing irritation of the stomach by promoting digestion, and the vegetable and mineral-antispasmodics, as hemlock, henbane, meadow saffron, the deadly nightshade, acetate of lead, sulphate of zinc, &c. have in many cases extended the interval of recurrence, by diminishing nervous excitement and muscular irritability; but we believe not one of them has succeeded in effectually removing the cause, or in effecting a cure.

No remedies have proved more beneficial in cases of epilepsy, than purgative medicines. By the regular use of an aperient medicine a state of system may be preserved unfavourable to the epileptic action; i.e. the brain may be kept in a quiet state by the consequent determination to the stomach and intestines, plenitude of the sanguiferous system prevented, an accumulation of matter, which might irritate the intestinal canal so as to sympathetically disturb the brain, may be obviated. Dr. Hamilton, in his Treatise on Purgative Medicine, says he has found active purgatives sufficient to *cure* epilepsy. To effect this, says Dr. Good, "the remedy should be administered *freely*, and maintained *steadily*, so as to keep up a *perpetual counter-irritation* in the bowels, which *may* act as a *repellent* against the morbid irritation in any other part, and directly carry off whatever acrimony may exist in the bowels themselves.

Drastic purgative medicines, especially when "freely and steadily administered," frequently excite a degree of irritation in the intestinal canal as to disorder the cerebral system, and bring on violent paroxysms of the disease. Dr. Hamilton, on whose authority Dr. Good recommends the free and steady exhibition of active purgatives, finding that his system was not understood by some practitioners, observes in the preface of the last edition of his Treatise, "There appears to exist a misconception of the *principle* itself by which I am understood to recommend *full purging*. This erroneous conclusion seems to have originated in the association established in the mind between the *effect* of purging and the exhibition of purgative medicines. The principle on which I *steadily* proceed is to *obviate* costiveness, and at the same time to *avoid* purging."

With respect to "morbid irritation in a part remote from the brain," being a cause of epilepsy, as supposed by Cullen, from the circumstance of the patient experiencing a sensation of cold vapour passing from the part to the brain, in all the cases of this kind, which have been subjected to post mortem examination, organic disease has been discovered in the brain. Indeed, it is common for invalids to experience a similar sensation a day or two previously to an apoplectic fit, and during palsy of one side of the body from effusion of blood in the head.

From the foregoing remarks on the nature and causes of epilepsy, it must appear obvious that costiveness, by occasioning a determination of blood to the brain, and favouring irritation in the stomach and intestinal canal, must operate injuriously to epileptic patients; and every practitioner of experience and observation must be aware that costiveness is a common precursor of an epileptic fit, and is no doubt a very common exciting cause of a paroxysm. Long experience and observation have satisfied us, that the most important class of remedies in cases of epilepsy, is that of purgatives, not in large doses so as to act violently on the bowels, as recommended by some writers,—for we have frequently found strong purgatives evidently to disturb the nervous system so as to bring on violent paroxysms of the disease,—but to produce two copious alvine evacuations daily, and promote the circulation in the bowels; and for these purposes we have found the following composition to succeed better than any other:

## Take of alcaline Extract of Jalap,\*

Compound Pill of Gum Galbanum, of each half a dr  
Mix, and divide into thirty pills; one, two, or three to be taken  
a day, (so as to produce one or two evacuations daily) with a  
glassful of infusion of buchu leaves or juniper berries.

The use of a diuretic medicine, as the infusion of buchu leaves and juniper berries†, by keeping up a proper secretion of urine, considerably promotes the *efficacy* of an aperient medicine in those affections which are dependent on morbid irritation in the stomach and intestines. The contents of the abdomen may be considered an animal laboratory, each organ being almost continually engaged in forming new combinations, and in some degree acting in concert with sympathy existing between them. If one organ be therefore brought into healthy action, it will have a beneficial influence on the others; besides, in all the secretions, the nerves are much engaged, and the organs are kept in a healthy condition, such a supply of nervous power or fluid will be required as to relieve the whole nervous system; an object of very great importance to epileptic subjects. We have met with intelligent epileptic and nervous subjects, who, in consequence of disturbed brain, with increased heat of the head, and diminished heat of the extremities, &c., have attributed their suffering to an accumulation of nervous fluid in the brain, in consequence of the nerves not performing their office; and we are much inclined to believe that this is the case in many nervous affections, especially the head.

The practice of Abernethy, of exhibiting five grains of the bark every or every other night, to promote the secretion of the liver, is really very beneficial to epileptic patients, but when continued so long as to affect the gums, or produce what is termed mercurial excitement or fever, it uniformly increases the frequency and violence of the fits or convulsions; and as we have known this effect occasioned by two

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\* This extract when carefully made is unquestionably the best preparation of the jalap root; the powder and tincture, in consequence of the peculiar irritation they excite in the fauces and gullet, generally producing a slight degree of nausea. The extract sold by most of the sale druggists, in consequence of over-boiling the root, and hasty evaporation, is scarcely aperient in greater doses than of the common extract. The extract we employ is made at the Medical Hall, Piccadilly, by evaporating a filtered infusion of the root in proof spirit in a water bath, with a small addition of pure potass to keep the root and gum intimately mixed. Ten grains of this extract are equivalent to a drachm of the common extract. In consequence of the addition of the pure potass, and to distinguish it from the common extract, we have termed it *alcaline extract*.

† The infusion of juniper berries is a good diuretic; but the infusion of buchu leaves is the most certain diuretic with which we are acquainted, and being at the same time what is termed a nervous medicine and a carminative stomachic, we have always given preference.

of the blue-pill, the remedy should be administered with great caution, and its effect on the nervous system most carefully watched.

As auxiliaries to the aperient pills of alkaline extract of jalap, we may notice the cold shower-bath, three times a week\*, the asara-becca snuff, moderate exercise, a medium diet, and flannel next the skin.

In a case of epilepsy, to which we paid great attention, we found an aperient medicine, exhibited every day so as to keep the bowels in a regular state, and infusion of rhatany root, with carbonate of soda and tincture of buchu leaves, more beneficial than any of the remedies which have been lately recommended as infallible specifics; but notwithstanding his general health was apparently good, and the greatest attention was paid to every circumstance that was likely to favour the disease, or to keep off a paroxysm, such as promoting the secretion of the nostrils, keeping the head cool and the feet warm, avoiding full meals, and pleasantly occupying the mind: the patient was always suddenly attacked with violent fits, whenever the wind shifted from the West or South to the East or North East.

## STOMACH AND LIVER COMPLAINTS.

The principal object of Dr. Graham's work on disorders of the stomach and liver, to which we have alluded in our 107th Number, is to prove that "biliary and liver complaints" are by no means so general as practitioners and the public imagine; and that the affections of the intestines are not only more frequent and severe, but more injurious to the general health. The result of his researches has satisfied him that the complaints, commonly called "liver or biliary," are, in reality, nine times out of ten, affections of the stomach or bowels. He has also discovered another "prominent error" in the medical practice of the day, viz. "an employment of large doses of mercury, for the cure of the supposed liver complaints; the mischief arising from which has exceeded his power of calculation. These "prominent errors are," says he, "wide-spreading evils, whose destructive influence is *unhappily felt* by persons of *every age, rank and condition*, and which call aloud for a remedy!" His first essay, "on the nature of those prevailing disorders, which are erroneously called Liver Complaints," embraces all the evidence he has been able to collect, from the records of dissection by practitioners of eminence, in favour of his first hypothesis, which he has preferred to "any cases or examination of his own, because those records are *before the public*, and the dissections they describe not being instituted to serve *HIS purpose*, they will, *with justice*, be received as more satisfactory and conclusive!"

This part, which occupies no less than 148 pages, certainly affords

\* We have thought the efficacy of this remedy has, in some cases of nervous affections of the head, been greatly promoted by the patient standing in a tub of warm water (nearly to the knees), during its use.

“satisfactory and conclusive evidence” of the truth of the declaration he has made in his preface, that nine cases out of ten which are termed liver or bilious complaints, are affections of the intestinal tube. Of “the principal causes of the prevailing idea respecting the paramount frequency of bilious and liver complaints,” the doctor enumerates five, which we shall take leave to give in his own words:—

“1st.—A fulness, and tenderness on pressure, and pain, being often present at the pit of the stomach, extending a little to the right side.

“2nd.—The alvine discharges being almost always discoloured in bowel complaints, and not unfrequently green or black, like pitch, from which they have been called *bilious*; and the power of small doses of mercury, in correcting this appearance.

“3rd.—Organic disease being sometimes found in the liver after death, in cases of intestinal, and other disorders, when no traces of such mischief are detected in any other viscus.

“4th.—A great number of our countrymen annually return from the East and West Indies with biliary and intestinal disorders, arising from their residence within the tropics, where the liver is the organ the most obnoxious to disease, and where calomel is the *sovereign* remedy for *all* bodily ills: these, on their return to England, are ready to pronounce the maladies of their friends to be liver complaints, and cannot, of course, conceive any other medicine equal to calomel.

“5th.—The sensible influence which the opinions and practice of professional men from India have had, and still continue to have, over medical practice at home.”

In corroboration of the truth of this statement, the learned Doctor brings forward a mass of evidence from the best authorities. As to the tenderness or pain experienced on employing pressure over the region of the stomach, and indeed over that of the liver itself, which Abernethy considers a certain proof of a disordered condition of the liver, he notices several cases of disease of the ascending and transverse portions of the colon, on which they were present, although the liver and stomach were in a healthy state; and as to the appearances of the faeces being indicative of the condition of the liver, they are more influenced by the secretions of a diseased colon than by the bile. The truth of the 4th and 5th cause of the prevailing fashion of referring so many complaints to a diseased secretion or disordered condition of the liver, every practitioner, who is not tainted by the hepatic mania, or who is so unfashionable as to suppose that the general health of the body is dependant on the healthy functions of the liver, or that it is not the *primum mobile* in the animal economy, must admit. This part of the work is certainly very creditable to the author, inasmuch as it shews that he has paid some attention to the subject, and that he has not only *read* all the best works on it, but *digested* the practical information they afforded.

If the *universality* of bilious and liver diseases was the *only* error which has been introduced from the East Indies, it would have “hardly been worth the trouble of refutation;” but, says the Doctor,

a practical evil has resulted from this error in language, and the active mercurial oxides are improperly represented to be the *sure* and *only* remedies for the major part of the prevailing disorders of the digestive organs. Thus the constitutions of the inhabitants of this island have been, within the last twenty years, mercurialized without *impety*, and consequently scrofula, consumption, palsy, and indigestion—all diseases of debility, have *rapidly* and *greatly* multiplied; and as long as this mineral is so *freely* and *indiscriminately* administered, they will continue to increase both in number and obstinacy."!! To confirm the truth of this bold declaration, is a principal object of the next essay. The result of his own practice, and the information he has collected from books, have convinced him that there is not another article in the *materia medica* in common use, which so *immediately* and *permanently*, and to *so great a degree*, debilitates the stomach and bowels as *calomel*; yet, says he, this is the medicine which *is sent for and prescribed on every occasion*, the most trifling and the *most urgent*!! We were not before aware of *calomel* being an article of the *materia medica*; but whether the Doctor is or is not acquainted with the *materia medica* of his own country, it has nothing to do with the facts he has collected from observation and reading, respecting its effects on the human body. One fact of great importance is the action of mercury on the *nervous* system, which in his opinion is demonstrative of its being an article in its *nature inimical* to the *human* constitution, since, says he, "what other medicine in frequent use will excite feelings so *horrible* and *indescribable* as *calomel* and OTHER preparations of mercury. An excessively peevish, irritable and despondent state of mind," he asserts, "is a well known consequence of a single dose of this substance."!!! On the authority of the late Dr. Falconer, he states that, "among other ill effects, it tends to produce tremors, palsy, and not unfrequently *incurable mania*." In hypochondriacal cases, and most cases of indigestion, we have found mercury to exhilarate the mind, and in no instance have we found it to produce a contrary effect. To prove that mercury merits the character he has given it, he adduces many instances of its injurious effects, every one of which were evidently the consequence either of a very injudicious exhibition, or of peculiarity of constitution, technically termed *idiosyncracy*.

That mercury is at least *one* of the most valuable articles that has been introduced in the practice of medicine, we are confident no impartial practitioner of experience will deny. In cases of organic disease, which destroy a great proportion of the human race, we have in fact no other remedy, and when judiciously employed in the first stage, it has been the means of removing or suspending the progress of structural mischief, which in the last stage would have been productive of indescribable misery. In cases of disturbed organization or structural disease, we have in fact no remedy to introduce into the system capable of exciting the action of the absorbent vessels, on which a change of structure or removal of the diseased mass depends, except mercury; and its beneficial effects on internal organic disease, when carefully watched, frequently exceed the expectation of the most sanguine practitioner. That it is too indiscriminately and care-

lessly administered, are facts which all practitioners, who are not blinded by chylopoietic doctrines, admit; but weak indeed must those practitioners be, who from the consequences of the abuse of a article would condemn it as an enemy to the constitution. As to the preparation—calomel, against which the Doctor is so violently prejudiced, it appears to us he has to learn that it is employed both as a constitutional remedy and as a purgative. With the view of correcting the constitution, and of increasing the action of the absorbent vessels of a diseased part, the practice is to administer a grain or half a grain once or twice a day, in conjunction with such articles as the state of the stomach and intestines, the nervous system, or the general health may indicate. We are not, in cases of organic disease, to abandon mercury, because, from excessive irritation, or some peculiarity of the stomach and bowels, it disagrees with the patient, for it is common for other articles, as copaiva, cubeba, &c to produce the same effect. A practitioner who looks to the constitutional or local effects of the remedy on a part remote from the stomach and bowels, will not relinquish a remedy from its primary local operation on the stomach, but will combine it with other article which may tend to reconcile the stomach to it, or previously prepare the stomach and nervous system for its employment. With respect to mercury, when it disorders any part of the alimentary canal, it may as an alterative be effectually introduced into the system by external friction or by vapour. As patients are differently affected by mercury on some a few grains disturbing the nervous system, on others the same quantity exciting a degree of irritation in the gums and salivary glands bordering on salivation, its effects should be carefully watched but instead of this, it is a common practice for a certain chylopoietic surgeon to give his patients a box of blue pills, with verbal direction to take one every night for a fortnight.

A few weeks since, we met with one of this gentleman's patients at Brighton, in a distressing state of salivation, after taking only three blue pills; and in one of our early numbers, we have noticed a case of a female, of thirty-five years of age, with a schirrous tumour in the right breast, who was directed to take a blue pill every night for fortnight. After taking three doses, salivation came on, which was rapidly followed by a most formidable enlargement of the breast, and of the axillary glands, which terminated fatally; but the result of those cases reflect disgrace on the practitioner, and not on the remedy. The medicine was unquestionably applicable to both cases; and had the practitioner seen the patients daily, and taken the trouble to have given them proper directions, it would most probably have proved highly beneficial. In many internal disorders, it is indeed often necessary to continue the medicine till it does excite mercurial fever or affect the mouth; and we are satisfied many patients have been restored to health by the convalescent state of the system, or the state in which the system is during the progress of convalescence, which follows mercurial fever. Calomel is also an excellent purgative, either alone, or with jalap, rhubarb, scammony, or senna. It not only promotes the operation of those articles, especially by carrying off slimes and worms, but by correcting the secretion of the mucous glands o

the intestines, one dose of either of them, with calomel, will prove more beneficial in one day, than repeated doses without it will in a fortnight; and on these accounts, jalap or scammony with it, as the basilic powder, is a most excellent purgative for children, and when timely administered, has no doubt prevented obstructions of the mesenteric glands, which so frequently lay the foundation of serious diseases. The instances of the "horrible operation of mercury," from the abuse of it, are no doubt more likely to "serve the *author's purpose*" better than those of its beneficial effects from a judicious use. This said "purpose" is not developed till within a few pages of the end of the book. After wading through thirty pages of *proofs* of the "inimical nature of mercury," we arrive to an account of a remedy, of "inestimable value," for "liver, stomach, and intestinal diseases," which, by way of note, he says, is sold by the vender of his *infallible remedy for epilepsy!!!* Of this great blessing, we shall give the author's account in his own words:—

"The alkali recommended by Mr. Brandish, for the cure of scrofula, is often of signal service in stomachic weakness and disorder. It is eminently tonic to this part, and to the whole of the alimentary canal, and operates as a *permanent* stimulus to the whole system, increasing the appetite and strength, and exhilarating the spirits in a *remarkable* manner. All the alkalies are occasionally found of excellent use in these maladies; they are efficacious correctors of *morbid* acidity, and have other effects on the stomach and bowels, that are very grateful and beneficial. Reasoning from the healthy changes wrought by it, I should say, the alkaline solution of Brandish possesses every good quality of the most powerful alkalis, and alkaline earths, in common use, without their objections; as it possesses *no deleterious* property, and may be continued for several months in succession, not only without injury, which cannot always be avoided in prescribing the former, but with increased advantage, both as a tonic and alterative.

"Like the foregoing acid, it is of most service where the stomach is the chief seat of disorder; but instead of being applicable to the cases where heat is a troublesome feeling, it is in those in which coldness of the feet, chillness of the general surface, languor, fluttering at the pit of the stomach, and morbid acidity, are the most prominent symptoms, that it displays its *full* powers. The acid *cools* while it *strengthens*; this gently stimulates, and imparts an agreeable glow to the whole frame. It is likewise often of as much use in *recent*, as in *old* and *bad* cases; and it favours the *natural* action of the bowels!!

"Some persons who suffer from intestinal weakness and disorder, or the second modification of indigestion, derive much and lasting advantage from this alkali; and, if I mistake not, it is much more exhilarating to the spirits, where it agrees, more strengthening also, and a more effectual alterative than the acid.

"Many ladies in the higher circles, who pass a great part of their time in large towns and cities, and in over-heated rooms, who take little exercise, from these causes become pale and weak, lose their appetite, and are distressed with constipation of the bowels, and

many uncomfortable sensations about the region of the stomach particularly after eating ; to such, the alkaline solution will prove a mild, but exhilarating and excellent tonic, that tends effectually to remove constipation, and to restore the *energies* both of *body* and *mind*.

"At the commencement, it should be given in doses of a tea-spoonful morning and evening, and gradually increased to two tea-spoonfuls. Fresh beer, and milk and water, cover its taste the best ; and whatever it is taken in, not less than three-fourths of a tea-cupful should be used as a vehicle, since the nature of the remedy requires it to be diluted with a considerable quantity of some fluid. If beer be employed for this purpose, it should be quite fresh ; and acids of every kind, with all sub-acid fruits, must be altogether avoided, while taking this alkali.

"I would recommend this alkali to the attention of persons who suffer from a long residence in a warm climate. The chief complaint of these invalids is, a deficient and irregular action of the stomach and bowels, which they will find the alkaline solution admirably adapted to remove."

Hence then it appears, that notwithstanding the "nice distinctions between liver, stomach, and intestinal diseases, the author's experience and researches have enabled him to make, the alkali is an invaluable remedy for *all* of them. This said alkali is a solution of pure potass, one of the most powerful caustics we possess. Now will any professional man of experience, or who is *not* interested in the sale of it, say that the continued use of such a potent article is not more likely to disorder the stomach and bowels, or produce disease in the coats than calomel or the blue pill ? When acidity prevails in the stomach the alkaline solution may be administered with impunity, in consequence of being neutralized by the acid, with which it forms a mild aperient salt ; and in such cases it is very commonly prescribed, but only as a corrector of acidity, a symptom of indigestion ; but when acidity does not prevail, we presume no practitioner, who can extend his feelings beyond the fee, would prescribe it alone. The carbonates of potass, or of soda, are generally preferred by practitioners to neutralize predominant acidity, and the disengaged carbonic acid gas, by allaying irritation in the stomach, generally proves highly beneficial but even these articles, although in a neutralized state, are prescribed in combination with such medicines as are likely to remove the cause of the acid product, as extract of sennit, infusion of cascara, rhubarb, &c.

The continued use of a pure alkali, as Brandish's solution, was much condemned by the late Dr. Baillie, who has often declared that such were its debilitating effects on the vital powers, that he has known its frequent use to bring on the general weakness of old age. One great objection to its continued use is, its stimulating effect on the kidney, which, in elderly people especially, is very likely to produce diabetes. Mr. Brandish and Mr. Farr of London have found the alkaline solution beneficial in correcting the scrofulous habit, but these gentlemen have at the same time, employed mercury, and such other remedies, which the state of stomach and general health rendered necessary. The

directions for making Brandish's alcali we have given in our 102d number.

"After taking into consideration *all kinds* of disorders of the *digestive organs*," the doctor has discovered, "that rhubarb is in *general* **EQUALLY** efficacious with mercury (in p. 195, he says, "in stomach complaints, *mercury* is *utterly* inadmissible, being little better than an active poison" !!) in *restoring* the stools to their *natural* colour, and that sometimes it is much more so; and therefore, on the whole, preferable for this purpose, since, unlike mercury, it is incapable of injury."(!!) We suspect some of our readers will be disposed to attribute the colour of the motions produced by rhubarb, more to its colouring matter than to its action on the liver. The author has found rhubarb to act as a deobstruent, although some practitioners of no less eminence have declared it to be the reverse, from its peculiar astringent property. The doctor, however, speaks from experience, having found it to disperse a *sarcocele*; an assertion which will excite the risible muscles of our professional readers.

#### ASTHMA, &c.

SIRS,—I am glad you have given publicity to a remedy which has been for some years administered by my professional brethren in the United States, with singular beneficial effects in spasmodic asthma, viz. the saturated tincture of the *lobelia inflata*. This article, being unquestionably a most powerful antispasmodic, merits a trial in other spasmodic diseases. I have found it most beneficial when exhibited with the aromatic spirit of ammonia, in the following proportions:

Take of Saturated Tincture of the *lobelia inflata*, one ounce;

Aromatic Spirit of Ammonia, half an ounce.

Mix.—A tea-spoonful to be taken in a small glass of water, either during the paroxysm, or on its approach.

In the receipt for a plaster for corns, &c. which appears in your 108th Number, I find I omitted the extract of belladonna. To the quantity there ordered, three drachms of this extract should be added. This composition is not only a very valuable topical remedy for corns and bunions, but also for scirrhouous tumours and enlarged joints from rheumatism or gout.

I am frank to confess that from your excellent publication I have derived more valuable practical information, than from any work either of England, France, Germany, or of the United States; but from the perusal of no article have I derived more *amusement* than from a note by a Dr. Paris of London, on cherry brandy, an article with which the doctor, or his scientific lady, or his cook, may for ought I know be *practically* acquainted. Whether the doctor speaks from its effects on himself, or from the reports of his wife or his cook, it is clear to me that he has made out by this short note a much greater claim to the title of a *gentleman*, than he has done by both his volumes to that of a man of science; and even as great a one to that of a man of courage as the *gentleman* who, when in Paris, dared to denominate a person there in Philadelphia a coward, but who, however, on the appearance

of the said gentleman, was as much paralyzed as if he had taken an overdose of Prussic acid. The following is a copy of the *scientific and magnanimous* note to which I allude:

"The editors of the American Medical Recorder, in descanting upon the efficacy of Prussic acid, very *gravely* remark, that they are acquainted with a *lady* subject to hysterical affections, who always derives relief from a dose of cherry brandy, in which peach kernels have (had) been digested; the stimulus of the brandy then goes for *nothing* with these **BLOCKHEADS!!!** Zimmerman not unaptly compares a man who is intoxicated with a favourite opinion to a passionate lover, who sees or hears nothing but his *mistress.*"!!!—*Paris's Pharmacologia*, p. 115, vol. i. edit. v.

Now Messrs. Editors, so far as I am acquainted with the state of medicine in America and England, I really see no reason why the Editors of the American Recorder are more entitled to the distinguished rank in the literary world of "*blockheads*" than the author of the London Pharmacopœia; for the Medical Recorder is assuredly no less creditable to the Editors, than the London Pharmacopœia is to the College of Physicians, of which the *magnanimous and scientific* Dr. Paris is a member.

The cherry brandy of America, being strongly impregnated with the bitter principle of peach kernels, (in that country very abundant,) which is considered by chemists to be prussic acid, I really see no reason for denominating the Editors of the said Journal *blockheads*, for having attributed the effect of cherry brandy so made, in cases of an hysterical affection, to the prussic acid it contains; and I have no hesitation in saying, that the person who would attribute the salutary effects of the said brandy in a case of hysterical fits more to the spirit than to the prussic acid, is, in the true meaning of the word *a blockhead*; for in cases of hysterical fits, brandy, by stimulating the system, generally aggravates the paroxysm; whilst the prussic acid from its anodyne effect, is always beneficial. The liberal doctor is, I understand, a *legitimate* physician, a species of practitioners not known in America; the monachism of medicine, as you very properly term it, having long ceased to exist there. American medicine, be what it may, certainly does not require the cloak of a dead language and as to English medicine, no circumstance can, in my humble opinion, lessen it in the opinion of men of science, more than the fact if fact it be, of such trash as Dr. Paris's Pharmacopœia, having passed through four editions!! I intend, on my return to New York, to publish some remarks on English medicine, and an analysis of the *scientific pharmacologia* of the *magnanimous gentleman*, Dr. Paris.

I am Sirs, your Constant Reader,

*Liverpool, February 16, 1825.*

*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

**JAMES JONES, M. D.**

*Of New York.*

#### MEMBRANOUS OR PITUITOUS CONSUMPTION.

A scientific surgeon, residing in Cornwall, informs us that he has administered the supersulphate of alumine in the dose of half a drachm, dissolved in an infusion of the leaves of the diosma crenata,

twice a day, in a case of chronic inflammation of the membranous lining of the windpipe, and its ramifications (bronchial) attended with cough, copious expectoration, and other symptoms of pulmonary consumption, with complete success. A few doses of this composition, he says succeeded in allaying the irritation of the affected membrane, that the cough and secretion of phlegm soon abated, and in a few days the complaint altogether ceased. It did not constipate the bowels. The effect of the supersulphate of alumine in allaying membranous irritation, either of the vagina, urethra, or intestines, is well known to the surgeons of this country, and from the result of our experience with the acetate and supersulphate of alumine in such cases, independent of the favourable report of our respectable correspondent, of its efficacy in chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the windpipe, &c. (a complaint which is very frequently mistaken for true pulmonary consumption from organic disease), we think it is entitled to the attention of the medical profession in the latter case, dissolved in whey or in an infusion of the leaves of the *diosma crenata*.

In a late number we inserted a case of chronic inflammation of the membrane of the windpipe and its branches, attended with all the symptoms of true phthisis pulmonalis, (communicated by Mr. Bird, of Cardiff), in which the infusion of the *diosma crenata*, with a small quantity of the oxymel of squills, succeeded in restoring his patient to perfect health.

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### TIC DOULOUREUX.

IN our 108th number, page 1163, we have briefly noticed a case of tic doulourenx in a female about fifty years of age, which at the time of writing the article was under our care. It was perhaps one of the most distressing cases that ever occurred in this or any other country. The slightest motion of the lower jaw, and even the action of a very slight currency of air on the face, brought on such violent paroxysms as to deprive her of her senses. The composition of carbonate of iron, hemlock, &c. noticed in the above number, having produced little, if any beneficial effect, we prescribed the extract of belladonna to be taken internally, and a solution of it with ether to be applied externally, which succeeded in abating the anguish of her sufferings; but her general health evidently declining from the use of these remedies, we ordered the Peruvian bark to be administered as directed by Dr. Kerrison, which succeeded in strengthening her system. The disease continuing to return, although with less violence, we substituted the prussic acid, with the compound spirit of ether, for the belladonna, and in a few days we had the great pleasure to find that the paroxysms had not only been considerably less violent, but the intervals of recurrence increased from two to twelve hours. The Peruvian bark, on account of oppressing the stomach, was then omitted. After continuing the prussic acid and compound ether for a fortnight, the disease entirely ceased; but on the air becoming violently agitated, or the wind shifting from the West to the East or North-east, she found it necessary, from the usual premonitory symptoms, to increase the

dose in order to keep off a paroxysm. The following is a copy of the prescription.

Take of Prussic Acid, half a drachm,

Compound Spirit of Ether, one ounce.—Mix.

Thirty drops to be taken two or three times a day, in a glass of cold camomile tea.

The bowels being most obstinately costive, she also took every morning a tea-cupful of a strong infusion of senna and coriander seeds. Previously to our seeing this patient, she had taken the carbonate of iron to the extent of nearly three drachms daily, which she said evidently improved her general health, but had no effect on the disease. Under the direction of a physician of the legitimate class who declared her disease to be rheumatism, she had lost blood by cupping, had applied a blister to the nape of the neck, and had gone through the usual routine treatment of rheumatism, which, instead of affording relief, evidently aggravated the disease, and to it she attributed her great sufferings.

#### TAPE WORM.

A M. Husson has lately communicated to the Royal Academy of Medicine, of Paris, another case of tape-worm, in which two ounces of the decoction of the bark of the pomegranate root\*, taken every two hours, succeeded in expelling the parasite in the course of twenty-four hours. It does not appear that there is any sensible difference between the bark of the root and the rind of the fruit,—a point which should be ascertained, as the bark of the root is not to be obtained in this country.

The bark of the common fir is, perhaps, the most powerful verfumigant of the vegetable kingdom. It contains three principles; each of which is a powerful poison to a great variety of animals, in many respects similar to the worms which are found in the alimentary canal, viz. the bitter, astringent and terebinthinate. An infusion of this bark, in warm water, is a powerful poison to the earth worm, caterpillars, flies, maggots, and a great variety of insects, and is an excellent preserver of wall-fruit, against wasps, flies, &c. The best form for administering it is the powder, which may be mixed with honey, or lenitive electuary. The dose is from ten to fifteen grains.

M. Husson says, that his patient "had been troubled with *symptoms* of tape-worm for nearly ten years." As we know of no certain, or what is termed pathognomonic symptom of the existence of tape worm, except the evacuation of a portion of it, we are sorry he has omitted to enumerate the *symptoms*. As yet, no symptom peculiar to this disease has been discovered.

#### TYPHUS FEVER.

Mr. Shatte, a respectable surgeon-apothecary of Stokenham, in Devonshire, has communicated to the medical profession a few

\* This decoction is made, by gently boiling two ounces of the bark in a pint and a half of water, till reduced to a pint.

cases of typhus fever, in which an ancient practice of introducing a quantity of the branches of trees well covered with green leaves into the chamber of the patient, has been so decidedly beneficial, that in one instance, it "revived a patient almost at the point of death."

The following is the substance of Mr. Shatte's communication, as published by Dr. Macleod.

"In 1821, when typhus fever was very prevalent in this neighbourhood, I made several trials of this remedy. G. F., in the village of Chillington, who was taken ill with that disease, having a wife and two children, with only two small rooms up stairs: I immediately had the rooms and the bed covered with wet bushes or boughs of ash, hazel, willow, or any green shrubs that could be procured. The old ones were carried out, and fresh ones brought in every morning; and I am of opinion, that when they are brought in with the dew upon them, they are more efficacious: at all events, they must be made very wet with cold water, and be in considerable quantities, so as to cover the whole room."

Mr. S. adds several quotations from Fernelius, Fontano, &c. who advocate the same practice; and finally he objects, and we think, observes Dr. Macleod, with great reason, to the abstraction of large quantities of blood in fevers likely to assume a typhoid character. The mania of the venous congestion in cases of typhus, on which abstraction of blood is founded, has nearly run its course, some hundreds, if not thousands, having been hastened to their graves by it. We are disposed to agree with the French physician, who, after many years' extensive experience in typhus fever, states that it will run its course, and that its favourable termination depends on the stamina of the patient, and all that art has to do is to regulate the bowels, keep the head cool by frequent application of cold water, wash the body once a day with cold water, administer a tea-cupful or two of broth, with a little vegetable jelly, every three or four hours, quench thirst with lemonade, or the saline mixture in a state of effervescence, and to keep the room well ventilated. He adds, he has met with some cases of typhus in which abstraction of blood by leeches to the temple was necessary, to allay the inflammatory excitement of the brain on its commencement; but when the disease was established with all its characteristic symptoms, abstraction of blood, by weakening the stamina, evidently hastened its fatal termination. Blisters he has also found injurious. If green leaves have really any salutary influence on the air of the room, either by imparting oxygen or absorbing smoke, they may be speedily produced from the mustard or cress seeds when they cannot be obtained from trees. The leaves of evergreen plants, or shrubs, will no doubt have the same effect on the air as those of the ash, &c. The green leaf treatment has the negative merit, which in medicine is no small merit, "of being incapable of doing harm if it does no good;" at any rate to the *practitioner* it is likely to afford the advantages of the practice recommended by Dr. Pearson to his pupils, of "being busy about the body." We lately heard a legitimate physician observe, that whenever he is called into a case

of sudden death, he always does something, for two reasons, viz. 1stly, It conveys to the friends the idea of his being a physician of science and humane feeling; and, 2dly, it entitles him to a fee.

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## SURGERY. CHILBLAINS.

SIRS,—Having experienced the greatest relief from the following treatment in cases of chilblains, I am induced to solicit the insertion of it in your valuable monthly publication, the “Gazette of Health,” that others, (should they feel disposed to give it a trial), may avail themselves of it.

I am, Sirs,

Your humble servant,

T. C. K.

As soon as the inflammation takes place, which may be known by the itching, and red sore appearance the affected parts put on, let them be well fomented with a strong decoction of ivy, and afterwards well embrocated with the following application:

Take of Compound Camphorated Liniment, one ounce;  
Tincture of Opium, two drachms.—Mix.

This plan should be persisted in for three or four days, which in the generality of cases will be found effectual. Should the reverse be the case, and the disease get worse, the inflammation must then be reduced by leeches. I have sometimes found it requisite to apply five or six leeches to the part, by which means a considerable quantity of blood is extracted in a short time, which is particularly desirable. The bleeding should be promoted after the leeches drop off, by fomentations, as recommended above. When the bloody discharge ceases, apply an extensive warm linseed-meal poultice over the whole; which may be continued a day or two as found necessary. The poultice should be changed once in twelve hours. It is essentially necessary that the parts affected should be defended from the action of the atmospheric air. Should the hands be the parts attacked, they should be kept warm by means of thick gloves, which will assist the action of the embrocation in restoring the suspended circulation. Notwithstanding this active treatment, should ulceration follow, (as doubtless will sometimes happen), let the parts be first fomented, and afterwards dressed with pledgets of lint, smeared with mercurial ointment; this experience has proved to me to be an infallible remedy. During the use of topical remedies, I have usually availed myself of some mild alterative. The following I have generally preferred.

Take of Blue Pill, half a drachm;  
Extract of Bitter Apple, one drachm;

To be divided into twenty-four pills, one to be taken every night on retiring to rest.

*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.  
Exeter, Feb. 12, 1825.*

## COW-POX.

WE have received several cases of failures of cow-pox in affording security against small-pox infection, from respectable practitioners who really wish to think favourably of its preventive powers. A young lady, daughter of an eminent physician of London, after having been vaccinated about fifteen years, was a few weeks since laid up with a distressing crop of small-pox, which in the face and other parts of the body was confluent. It was preceded, as we believe has been the case in every instance of small-pox after vaccination, with an alarming degree of fever and inflammatory excitement of the brain. In the other cases the crops were small, and the eruptions did not advance, as in natural small-pox, to full suppuration. The cases with small eruptions were evidently small-pox, many children having been inoculated from them, on whom the matter produced fine crops of healthy small-pox eruptions, which advanced to full suppuration; so that matter generated in the system of a person who had been vaccinated is not milder than that of an unvaccinated person, although the progress of the eruption itself is evidently influenced by the effect of vaccination.

In our own practice, vaccination has hitherto afforded security against cow-pox; not one of those we have vaccinated having been affected with small-pox, although many have been inoculated, and no doubt, all exposed to the infection. As long as we find it to succeed in our practice, so long and no longer will we recommend it to our readers. In communicating cow-pox, there are many important minutiae to be attended to, and if any single one be neglected, it will not succeed in affording security against small-pox contagions;—which minutiae we have already noticed.

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MUCOUS DISCHARGE FROM THE BLADDER.

A respectable surgeon of London informs us, that he has administered the tincture of buchu leaves in the dose of two tea-spoonsful three times a day, in a large ale-glassful (about three ounces) of alum whey, in a case of discharge of mucus with the urine from the bladder, technically termed cystorrhœa, with complete success. The quantity of mucus sometimes exceeded a pint in the course of a day, and in the morning especially was frequently so thick and adhesive, as to pass through the urethra with great difficulty. A gentleman of Walworth states, that he has taken the tincture of buchu leaves in the decoction of the foreign marshmallow root, with "most extraordinary good effect." No man, he says, ever suffered greater distress from irritation in the bladder than himself, having been under the necessity of continuing on his knees in bed for twenty nights together, so as to allow the urine to escape by drops. The surgeons who had attended him, attributed his sufferings to disease of the prostate gland. The tincture of buchu leaves in a few days greatly

mitigated the pain; and, in the course of a few weeks, so entirely subdued the irritation, that he was able to travel in a stage-coach, even through the paved streets of London, and to pass his nights without being disturbed. In our own practice this remedy has not failed in one instance to allay morbid irritation in the bladder, urethra and rectum; and, when the consequence of mere disorder, it has uniformly succeeded in restoring the patients to perfect health; and, even when attended with organic disease, it has as uniformly succeeded in affording most essential relief.

Since we brought this article into notice in this country, considerable quantities have been imported; some of which we find are not the proper species. The species which has been found useful in the above complaints is the *diosma crenata*. In our next number we intend to give a particular description of this, and also of the other species of the genus *diosma*.

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## THERAPEUTICS. THE SUDATORY.

SIRS,—Permit me, through the medium of your highly popular and widely circulating journal, to call the attention of medical men and the intelligent public to the use of the improved air-pump vapour-bath, and the portable sudatory, which I have invented and successfully employed in my practice in a variety of diseases. Some of the cases have already been published in my Treatise on the Air-pump Vapour-Bath and Galvanism, and on Indigestion and the Portable Sudatory.

In the last number of your Gazette of Health, an instance is recorded of the great advantage obtained by a patient in Dublin from electricity and the air-pump vapour-bath, which apparatus was sent by me to Mr. Symon, and I am glad to find he has made so good a use of the machine.

The following interesting communications, in two letters from a respectable electrician in Exeter, are very gratifying and satisfactory testimonials of the utility of the air-pump vapour-bath and portable sudatory, which I sent to Exeter some time since, viz.

Exeter, 28th March, 1823.

SIR,—I feel much pleasure in informing you that I have exhibited the air-pump vapour-bath with good effects in misplaced goot, paralysis, settled rheumatism, attended with thickening of the ankle joint, and also in dropsical and strumous affections. A medical gentleman of eminence in Somerset sent the patient with the enlarged ankle to me on purpose to see the effect of the air-pump vapour-bath upon it. He has seen the patient, and is entirely satisfied with the effect of the machine; he admired it exceedingly, and intends ordering one of you for himself. Mr. Sully is one of the few professional gentlemen who dares to investigate and adopt any means likely to

benefit his fellow creatures, without waiting for the sanction of the college of physicians and surgeons. Mr. S. has an immense practice among the higher order of society; he has also established a dispensary for the poor, &c. I have succeeded in conquering a case of obstinate amenorrhœa (obstruction), which had been attempted by every other likely means for several years. I applied the machine only twice, the temperature 125; I continued the operation an hour and a half the second time. Copious perspiration and profound sleep the second day after the desired effect appeared. My nephew may have told you of the accident I met with, viz. a dreadful bruise on the muscles about the lumbar region. Finding rheumatic pains, weakness, &c. &c. continue, I determined on trying the effect of the air-pump vapour-bath: the success exceeded my expectations; I decidedly felt the effect through the whole side affected, while the exhaustion was going on. I passed the night in the most profound sleep, and felt like a creature new strung the next day.

I am, with great respect, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. CRAIG.

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Exeter, Nov. 13th, 1824.

SIR,—I avail myself of this opportunity of addressing you,—you will receive it by a gentleman, whom I have recommended to place himself under your care. Mr. S. will state his case so correctly that it is quite unnecessary for me to enter into it. Mr. S. has received a few electrical operations, and I have twice administered the air-pump vapour-bath to the limb most affected. I have much pleasure in informing you, I have been very successful in the application of this machine in gouty and rheumatic complaints, and affections of the hip and knee joints. In one hip case, there was a considerable contraction of the limb, and a thickening of the joint. Mr. Winter, a respectable surgeon, who has attended Dr. Armstrong's lectures, and who had often heard the doctor expatiate on the efficacy of your vapour and hot air baths, has *carefully* watched this case, and has the pleasure of seeing the patient perfectly restored without the torture of issues, &c.; the joint is reduced, and the contraction quite relaxed. The patient appeared much reduced when he was brought to Exeter, his pulse 125; night perspirations, &c. Mr. W. had a stream of electrical fluid passed through the limb occasionally; and after the first ten days, he took an oxigenated diet drink and tonic pills. Every exhibition of the air-pump vapour-bath was marked with decided benefit. This gentleman possesses an *independent spirit*, and will not allow theory, which cannot be substantiated by facts. Mr. W. has called in the sudatory in several cases, and is delighted with the success of its effects. Apropos, it is in contemplation to introduce it to the institution for the recovery of drowned persons. I administered it lately to a gentleman, who is a large subscriber, and is one of the committee; one of the surgeons of the institution has been to see mine, and approves of it. The gentleman, to whom

I administered it, laboured under *obstinate obstructed perspiration* which one operation restored. I hope you may shortly be applied to to furnish a sudatory for this institution. I cannot close this epistle, without stating the benefit I have recently received from your excellent invention.

*Excessive fatigue, mental solicitude, absence of refreshment, and exposure to cold, were at once the distressing causes which operated in producing the following symptoms. Confusion in the head, want of power in the arms, a pain and tenderness about the deltoid muscles, icy feelings on the chest, pain through the course of the spine, and the right lower limb, a sense of weight about the heart, pulse very low and irregular.* I felt as if the lamp of life was nearly extinct. Mr. Winter providentially called at this crisis, and advised my being put to bed, and to have the warm air-bath at once. In half an hour I was in a profuse perspiration, which continued more or less through the night. I got refreshing rest, and had not a remaining symptom next morning. This certainly was a case of congestion, which an agent less powerful could not have removed. Mr. W. was perfectly astonished to find me so thoroughly recovered in *so short* a time. I trust you will forgive my prolixity; but when opportunity offers, I feel desirous of informing you the result of your own means.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

*M. La Beaume, Esq.*

(Signed)

*H. Cragg*

From my own experience of the medical properties of the air-pump vapour-bath in gout, rheumatism, palsy, &c. and the extraordinary powers of the portable sudatory, and its invariable and certain effects in restoring and equalizing circulation, determining to the skin and producing a copious perspiration, and thereby removing painful obstructions, &c.; I will confidently assert that, even in extreme and urgent cases, it is an easy, safe, and effectual remedy, and that its effects may be depended upon. Numerous cases indeed have occurred in my practice, of apoplexy, epilepsy, erysipelas, hysteria, inflammation of the lungs, croup, &c. in which the sudatory succeeded beyond expectation. Many persons who had been given over by their medical attendants have been saved by a single use of this bath. This important fact I boldly assert on the authority of the medical men who have called me in and have witnessed my application, as well as those patients who have been saved from death and restored to health by it. In a case of recent occurrence I employed the sudatory as the *dernier resort* and last hope to a child about four years of age, a patient of Dr. G. Gregory's, who was apparently dying of measles, which had succeeded croup, and the life of the innocent sufferer was immediately saved, so that it was unnecessary for me to repeat the operation.

I remain, Sirs,

Respectfully yours,

*M. LA BEAUME.*

*Southampton Row, Russell Square,  
Nov: 16, 1824.*

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 112.]

To APRIL 1, 1825.

[VOL. X.

## PHYSIC.

### COSTIVENESS—(continued from p. 61.)

*Treatment of Costiveness attendant on a disordered or diseased Liver.*—Many of our subscribers have expressed their surprise at our apparent neglect, in not giving instructions for obviating the “species of costiveness, arising from deficiency of bile;” by some physiologists considered the “natural aperient of the bowels,” to which Englishmen, who have resided some years in a tropical climate, are very subject, after returning to their native country. To keep up the spirit of medicine, and the confidence of the public in it, fashion is as necessary as it is in articles of dress. We have fashionable theories, fashionable diseases, and fortunately for the dupes of them, or fantastic hypochondriacs, fashionable remedies; the objects of which are the same, viz. notoriety; which, to the legitimate class of physicians, is as necessary for the fee or *guinea*-trade, as to the success of the nostrum-monger. The fashion of attributing nearly all the diseases that assail the human race to the influence of the bile, and the treatment founded on it of attacking the “enemy in his capital (the liver,)” has run a long course, and to the ingenious inventors and their learned proselytes, has proved very lucrative: and the dentists, the class of physicians, vulgarly, but not unaptly, termed *mad*-doctors, undertakers, and proprietors of *mad*-houses and of antibilious nostrums, have had no reason to condemn the theory. This “enemy (the bile) to the health of the human body,” we are told, “sallieh forth from his strong hold, wantonly attacks the head, the lungs, the stomach, intestines, and even the extremities.” Hence affections of the brain, diseases and disorders of the viscera, of the chest, abdomen, pelvis, and of the extremities, arise from the malignant influence of the bile; and as mercury is the *only* remedy capable of entering the fortification of the enemy to health, or disturber of the animal economy, it is of course the only one that can effectually rout him. The importance given to the functions of the liver in the animal economy, and the influence of its secretion when its quality is bad, or when its quantity is excessive or deficient, in producing a long train of diseases, both acute and chronic, has induced invalids, incapable of discovering the “tricks they are playing,” to consider the liver in the same light as the main-spring of a complex piece of machinery, and to suppose that by it all the other organs of the body are to be regulated. Hence it is common for pains in the head, neck, shoulders, back, or extremities, disturbed sleep, spasms in the bowels, heart-burn, and even *acid* eructations, to be attributed by the sufferers to the operation of bile; but whether the bile be too copiously or too scantily secreted, or whether it be too mild or

too acrimonious in quality, the promulgators of "the hepatic theory," as it is termed by Curry and others, differ in opinion; but this is of no consequence as to the treatment, for whatever may be the state of the liver, of the bile, or of the body, the remedy is mercury, either in the form of blue pill, or calomel !!!

When a theory has numerous proselytes in the profession, or becomes a favourite with the public, a little difference of opinion must of course exist, for the purpose of the grand object, *notoriety*. Hence some of the converts to this hepatic theory of diseases contend, that calomel should be administered in very small doses, or what Abernethy terms *tranquillizing* doses, and should never exceed a grain a day; whilst others assert it will do no good unless it be given to the extent of five grains three or four times a day; and in some acute cases even to the extent of sixty grains a day! Some assert that a grain once a day will *stimulate* the system,—and others, that when administered to the extent of thirty or forty grains a day, it *quiets* or *tranquillizes* the system; and if the dead could give evidence, the question would be unanimously decided in favour of its *quieting* effects, for many thousands have experienced it. One would suppose that the opposite opinions which exist among the followers of the hepatic theory, and especially their opinions with respect to the use of the bile in the animal economy, would induce the most ignorant to suspect their honourable motives; one party contending that it separates in some unaccountable manner the chyle from the chyme;—another, that it acts as a medium of union between oily and other articles;—another, that its only use is to keep up the peristaltic motion of the intestines;—another, that it is only an excrementitious;—and another, that its only use is to disorder the system, in order to remind man of his *mortal* condition.

The liver is as much dependant on the state of the stomach for proper nourishment, on the heart for a supply of arterial blood, on the brain for sensation or nervous energy, as any other viscus; in fact, the same process of mutation, by the secerning extremities of arteries and absorbents, (deposition and absorption,) is going on in it as in any other part of the body. With respect to its connexion with the other viscera by means of nerves or by sympathy, it is absolutely less than exists between the other organs; for such is its indolence, that serious disease will take place in its substance without disordering any viscus or disturbing the general health, so that its importance in the animal economy depends solely on its secretion—the bile.

With respect to the use of the bile, a great variety of opinions has been broached by antient and modern physiologists, or those who have paid attention to the *philosophy* of the living body.

Mr. Brodie, an enquiring or rather experimental physiologist of the present day, has, with no small degree of exultation, published the result of an experiment he made on a dog, which he and his scientific patron, who is a kind of hypothesising physiologist, think will set the question to rest. He applied a ligature to the biliary duct (*ductus communis choledochus*) of a dog, which conveys the bile to the part of the intestinal canal (duodenum) in which the chyle is formed; and on examining the contents of the duodenum, after the

stomach had had time to perform its office and the chyme to enter it, he did not discover any chyle. The stomach had performed its office, and the chyme had entered the duodenum, but no chyle had formed, and therefore he concludes the presence of bile is necessary for the production of chyle—a very natural conclusion, especially for a physiologist who had previously formed the hypothesis. Now, unfortunately for this opinion, the same experiment was more than once made by the very accurate investigator of the philosophy of the animal machine, the late Dr. Fordyce, who found it did not in the smallest degree affect chylification. Indeed the doctor in several instances discovered chyle within the stomach near to the pylorus, to which the bile is not conveyed. He also found an abundance of chyle in the duodenum of persons whose biliary ducts had been for a considerable time so completely obstructed, that it was impossible for bile to pass through them. These facts alone evidently prove that the bile has nothing to do with the production of chyle. Mr. Abernethy, speaking of the use of the bile, observes, "In the enquiry into the *probable* uses of the bile it ought to be observed, that in many persons in whom that secretion is either for a *considerable time* WHOLLY suppressed, very deficient, or much depraved, it does not appear the *nutrition* of the body (dependant on chylification) is deficient." Indeed it is worthy of notice that invalids, during the existence of chronic jaundice, frequently become very corpulent, a proof that there could not have been a deficiency of the production of chyle) on which nourishment depends.

The celebrated Boerhaave, who possessed a sober philosophic mind, considered the bile an excrementitious secretion, i. e. the liver co-operates with the kidneys, lungs, skin, and colon, in separating impurities from the blood; but if the bile were merely an excrementitious secretion, one would suppose it would not be conveyed into the part of the intestinal canal in which the article is formed (chyle) for the nourishment of the body. From the experiments made on different animals, and from *post mortem* examinations of human subjects, it appears that the bile does not unite with the chyme or chyle in the duodenum, and that it does not mix with the contents of the intestinal canal until they enter the large intestine—the colon. The idea of impurities existing in the blood is generally ridiculed by a certain class of modern physicians; but physiologists (who are acquainted with the processes of mutation which are constantly going on in the living body) have no doubt of impurities existing in the blood, and consequently of the necessity of an organ or organs to separate them from the blood. Chyle is conveyed to the mass of blood to repair the body, and the old particles which are removed by the absorbent vessels being also conveyed to the mass of blood, it must appear obvious that a depurator is necessary. The kidneys, as we have already observed, convey from the blood impurities and superfluous water. It was supposed by the late Rev. Dr. Priestley, and by the late Dr. Beddoes, and other chemical philosophers, that during respiration oxygen is absorbed by the red particles of blood; but it has been most satisfactorily ascertained by Pepys and other eminent chemists of the day, that instead of oxygen being attracted by the

red particles of the blood, it attracts carbon from them by forming carbonic acid gas. Hydrogen gas is also conducted from the blood during its passing through the lungs, generally in combination with oxygen (in the form of vapour), and sometimes uncombined. On these impurities being conveyed for the *venous* blood, the red particles become florid, forming what is termed *arterial* blood. In asthmatic subjects, in whom the lungs, from spasmodic constriction, do not perform their office, certain it is the feces are highly charged with carbon, and a considerable quantity of hydrogen gas escapes with them; and these facts certainly go a long way to prove that the liver does co-operate with the lungs in purifying the blood. Another corroborating fact is, that the secretions of both are from *venous* blood. Again we may observe, that when the duct which conveys the bile into the intestinal canal is completely obstructed, the bile which is conveyed by the absorbents of the liver to the mass of blood is separated from it by the kidneys, the secretion of which is most unquestionably excrementitious. We may also notice another fact in proof of the bile being an excrementitious secretion, and of the liver acting in concert with the lungs:—the air which is expelled from the lungs of subjects with diseased liver is highly offensive from uncombined hydrogen gas, and highly charged with carbonic acid gas. These circumstances incline us to agree in opinion with Boerhaave, that the bile is an excrementitious secretion.

With respect to its being the "*natural cathartic of the intestines*," it is, generally speaking, so mild that it cannot chemically act as a stimulus to the muscular coat of the intestines, which perform the peristaltic motion, when it is even incapable of stimulating the membranes which are interposed; besides this, in many cases of jaundice, in which the bile did not pass in the smallest degree into the intestines, we have known the bowels to be as regularly relieved every day as they were previously to the attack of the disease. When considerable irritation exists in the liver or biliary ducts, from a calculus lodged in the principal duct, the bowels are generally constipated; but this is often the case when another organ, either of the chest or belly, is affected with an irritative disease, in consequence of a determination of nervous fluid and blood to the part. That an excrementitious discharge into the intestinal canal may tend to increase the peristaltic motion of the intestines, is however not very improbable.

Fourcroy thought that the uncombined soda of the bile, and its saline ingredients, united with the chyle to render it more fluid, whilst the resinous and gelatinous parts of it combined with the residue of the chyme; and this idea, we suspect, Mr. Brodie wished to establish by his experiment on a dog. The result of that experiment was considered by Mr. Abernethy of such importance, that he has not even alluded to it in the last edition of his work, although published many months after its promulgation. Some physiologists have asserted that the pylorus of the stomach possessing an elective powder, will allow nothing to pass into the duodenum which has not been properly digested, or which is likely to disturb the process of chylification; and we think that those physiologists who have paid particular attention to the sympathies of the body, some of

which appear to be independant of nervous connexion, and the power of reparation which exists more or less in every part of the body, will not deny this power to many organs, or that a kind of intelligence exists throughout the body, termed the *vis medicatrix naturæ*. The muscles of the gullet seem also to possess an elective power; for in every person the passing of a hard substance, as a bougie, a large pill, or even the end of a probang, generally brings the muscles concerned in vomiting into action, and in some nervous patients they will not admit of a small hard pill to pass into the stomach. Indeed this kind of intelligence to the philosopher of general observation not only pervades the animal kingdom, but the whole physical world. Now if we were urged to give an opinion why the bile, if really an excrementitious secretion, should be emptied into the duodenum, where the chyle is formed for the nutrition of the body, we would say, for the purpose of mixing with the residue of the chyme after the formation of chyle, to render it offensive to the mouths of the absorbents, and thereby to prevent its being conveyed to the mass of blood. That it does unite with the refuse of the chyme is admitted by Mr. Abernethy and other physiologists. With respect to the office of the colon, which we have stated to cooperate with the lungs, liver, &c. in separating impurities from the blood, Mr. Abernethy observes, the *residue* of the alimentary matter, mixed with the bile, passes from the small into the large intestines, and there undergoes a sudden change; it acquires a peculiar *foetor*, and becomes what we denominate feces. This change is so sudden, that it cannot be ascribed to spontaneous chemical alterations (which would be gradual), but it must be attributed to some *new animal agency*. If the contents of the small intestines at their termination, and of the large at their commencement, be examined, they will be found *totally* different, even within a line of each other; the former being without *foetor*, and the latter, being in all respects what is denominated feces. Though *chemists*, then, might speak of the *feculent matter* of chyle (chyme?) as feces, yet *physiologists* would rather apply that term to the change in the *residue* of the food, which takes place in the *large* intestines, and which seems to be effected by the vital powers of those organs. "The feces," proceeds Mr. Abernethy, "quickly suffer chemical decomposition out of the body, although they often remain in the bowels without undergoing the same kind of change. Their chemical decomposition is attended with the sudden formation of ammonia; yet, on examination, when recent, they are found to contain acids, which ammonia would neutralize. The inference therefore," says Mr. Abernethy, "naturally arises, that this third process, I mean the *conversion* of the residue of the aliment into feces, may, amongst other purposes, be designed to modify that residue, so as to prevent it from undergoing those various *chemical* changes which may prove stimulating to the containing organs, as well as injurious to the general health."

In a perfectly healthy state of the digestive organs, probably *no chemical* decomposition, even of the feces, takes place; yet changes happen, in some degree, without apparently producing any injurious consequences. To *chemical* changes we may *probably* attribute the extrication of *inflammable* air, and the various and unhealthy odours of

the fecal matter which are observable in disordered states of the digestive viscera."

The alteration in the odour and appearance of the residue of the chyme on entering the colon is not the consequence of any chemical decomposition, or of "some new animal agency," but of becoming mixed with the fecal secretion of the internal membrane of the colon; and so far from the refuse of the chyme being suddenly and completely converted into feces on entering the colon, the contents of the ascending portion of the colon, the residue or rejected part of the chyme with the bile, is clearly discoverable from the *true* fecal secretion of the colon, the former consisting of the refuse of the food, whilst the other is of a thin pulpy consistence; and as the refuse advances into the descending portion of the colon, it becomes more mixed with the true fecal discharge; but even when evacuated it is still easily distinguished from the fecal secretion of the colon on being mixed with water, or on microscopical inspection. In cases of fevers or of organic disease of the gullet, where a patient can swallow nothing in a solid or thick form, it is common to have copious evacuations of feces, which can consist only of bile and the fecal secretion of the colon. As another decisive proof of the feces not being a "conversion of the refuse of the food into fecal matter either in consequence of chemical decomposition and new combinations, or of a new animal agency," we may notice the case of a child, which occurred in the practice of Mr. Hallam, an intelligent and experienced surgeon of Walworth Road. This gentleman delivered a patient of a "fine muscular, fat, and healthy child, but which had an impervious oesophagus, so that no food ever passed into its stomach. The child lived for thirteen days, and was so wasted that its skin hung like a loose garment, and could be folded and lapped over its limbs. At first the child discharged the usual quantity of meconium from the bowels, and afterwards had, during eight days, one or two *alvine* evacuations, in quantity, colour, and consistence, not distinguishable from the stools of children who take food in the usual manner. After the eighth day the fecal discharges became more scanty and less frequent, but they continued to the last."

In our sixth number, in noticing Mr. Abernethy's opinion relative to the sudden conversion of the residue of the chyme after the process of animalisation or chylification in the duodenum into fecal matter, we attributed the change of colour and odour of the refuse to its mixing with the fecal discharge of the colon; and this opinion has, we presume, induced him to make the following remark in the last edition of his work on the origin and treatment of local diseases:

"The means by which this modification of the residue of the food, which takes place in the *large* intestines, is effected, are but little known. Analogy lead us to refer it to the effects of a *secretion from the lining of those intestines* in which it occurs."

Dr. Hamilton also admits that there is a fecal secretion from the large intestines, for he observes in the last edition of his Treatise on Purgative Medicines, lately published, "The residue of the food which is not adapted to afford nourishment, constitutes a *part* of the fecal evacuation which is made *directly* from the intestinal canal. It is probable (says he) this fecal matter is discharged into the more

capacious colon, where the ilium enters it by a lateral opening, so contrived that the contents of the colon cannot be returned. These circumstances (continues the doctor) distinguish the functions of the *smaller* from those of the *larger* intestines, a distinction not commonly noticed."

The complaint termed the *iliac passion*, in which the contents of the colon, in consequence of the peristaltic motion of the intestinal tube being inverted, are ejected from the stomach; and also the fact that by means of Reid's syringe, warm water may be passed through the colon into the small intestines, prove "that the lateral opening by which the ilium enters the colon" is *not* "so contrived as to prevent the contents of the colon from returning."

We have entered thus fully into the offices of the liver, stomach, colon, and kidneys, with the view of proving that the liver is not of greater importance in the animal economy than any other viscus, and not of such *vital* importance as many other organs, and, consequently, that there can be no just reason for attributing so many disorders, or diseases of the other viscera and local mischief to its influence, either in this or in a tropical country. From its size, its indolent nature, and its office in cooperating with the lungs, skin, kidneys, and colon, the functions of the liver of a native of England are very likely to be disturbed by the stimulating influence of a tropical climate; but the diseases which are thus excited are of opposite nature, and in some parts of India, organic diseases of the spleen of Europeans are much more frequent than of the liver; and from the idea which generally prevails among young surgeons who receive appointments in the East or West Indies, remaining unaltered even during a long residence in the climate, there can be no doubt diseases are often attributed to the liver which have no connexion whatever with it. Diseases of the liver are more rare in this country than of any other organ, and we firmly believe its functions are less disturbed by general disorder of the constitution, or by sympathy with a diseased organ or of a part remote from it, however formidable, than any other viscus either of the chest, abdomen, or pelvis.

As to the practitioners of the East and West Indies, very few indeed dare to extend their investigation of any disease beyond the functions of the liver: and of all the reports of tropical diseases, we knew of none entitled to the smallest attention, except the memoir of the state of health of the 88th regiment, presented by Dr. Mac Grigor to the Medical Board of Bombay. As this report shews a mind capable of making just observations on a broad scale, very rare in the present time, we shall give the substance of it. The Doctor, now Sir James Mac Grigor, who, to the credit of government, superseded that *eminent legitimate physician*, Sir Lucas Pepys, although in the most intricate cases of disease he could quote Hippocrates in his original language!! in describing the diseases which had taken place within one year, from the 1st of June, 1801, like a man of science, expresses a difficulty in stating the proportion of cases, in which the liver was really affected. If the cases, where that viscus was of an unnatural colour, where the peritoneal covering was inflamed, or where it exhibited variegated spots, may be termed diseases of the

viscus only, four of the patients subjected to *post mortem examination* were free from severe affection either of the substance or of the membranous covering of the liver. In two he found abscesses in the right and left lobes. In one there were small cysts in all the lobes containing matter. In three the liver was much enlarged, and the blood vessels over distended with marks of previous inflammation. In one there were abscesses in the right lobe, and in the lobe termed *lobulus spigelii*. In another the abscess was in the lower extremity of the right lobe, including the fissure; with erosion to an extent that must have soon made its way through the coats of the subjacent great blood vessels. In one case, the liver was unusually dark. In another, it was of a bright iron colour. In two cases the liver was very small, and harder than natural, but without the gritty feel of scirrhus. In nearly all the other cases, the liver was larger than the usual size. It sometimes filled both hypocondria, compressing the stomach and spleen, and touching the ribs of the left side. The weight was not always proportioned to the enlargement. The liver sometimes had a soft feel. In one case, however, where the enlargement was not so considerable, its texture was very firm, and weighed five pounds; here there were marks of inflammation on all the inferior portion of the right lobe. In a case of long standing, there seemed to be more disease than in any other; the *pori biliarii* were full of matter of a consistence between that of serum and pus. There was found an adhesion between the liver and peritoneum in eight cases; but there was an external prominence in only three of them. In one, an incision was made betwixt the 7th and 8th ribs, and the case terminated favourably. In none of the cases did there exist communication between the liver and the lungs. Of the four subjects where no marks of diseased liver could be seen, two were cases of fever, one of scurvy, who had laboured latterly under *every symptom* of inflammation of the liver; and the fourth had, for four months before his death, *every symptom* of this disease.

Dr. M'Grigor says, there was in general little disease either in the gall bladder, or biliary ducts. In ten cases the gall bladder was found distended. In one the *ductus communis* was found impervious. In another, though the gall bladder was not much distended, there were marks of previous inflammation; the vessels of the external coat being turgid, and adhering to the stomach. In ten cases the gall bladder contained from two to four ounces of bile of different colours, consistency, and probably of different qualities.

The membrane which covers the liver (*peritonæum*) is also extended over all the viscera of the abdomen, and when it is diseased, we are not to consider it a disease of the viscous, which it happens to cover, unless the disease extends to its substance. The late Dr. Saunders, who we have reason to believe never attended the *post mortem* examination of more than four subjects who had resided in a tropical climate, although the result of his extensive practice no doubt gave him ample opportunities of doing it, has given a very plausible description of the *variety* of the diseases of the liver to which Europeans are subject, after residing in the East or West Indies. He has pictured to his imagination enlarged and diminished

livers, soft and hard livers, tuberculated, inflamed and edematous livers; and after his opponent, Dr. Curry, promulgated his closet system of *hepatic* medicine, in which calomel is extolled as the grand specific, Dr. Saunders discovered that calomel was as injurious in one disease of the liver as it was beneficial in the other, and of course that it required great experience and minute observation to distinguish the different affections!! The Doctor's work, and those of other Indian practitioners, had the effect of inducing many medical men of this country to suppose, that all diseases to which Europeans are subject in a tropical climate originate in the liver; and hence when a person from the East or West Indies consults a surgeon or medical doctor, after returning to his native country, whatever the nature or seat of his malady may be, it is a thousand to one if he does not refer it to some morbid condition of the liver; and this opinion generally accords with that of the patient, who, during his residence in a tropical climate, became convinced that all diseases must be, in some degree, biliary, or connected with the liver.

An Englishman, after a residence of a few years in a tropical climate, soon after his return to his native country, is very apt to become subject to diseases, diametrically opposite to those which prevail in the climate he has left. After his constitution has been in some degree accustomed to the stimulus of a warm atmosphere, the body becomes languid in an atmosphere of a lower degree of temperature, as that of England. In a tropical climate, diseases are all more or less acute, but in the climate of this country, particularly during winter, autumn, and spring, the viscera of a person who has resided in a tropical climate, becomes so indolent as to require the use of a stimulus to keep up their functions. If a viscera has sustained any mischief from the constant action of a warm climate, it is very likely, in this country, to proceed almost imperceptibly till it arrives to an incurable stage. We do not find that the liver is more frequently the seat of disease than the lungs, stomach, spleen, kidneys, bladder, prostate gland, colon, or rectum: indeed, we have observed that Englishmen, who have resided in a tropical climate for some years, a few months after their return to their native country, to be more liable to structural disease of the colon, rectum, prostate gland, and stomach, than of the liver. The seeds of disease generated in a viscera, in a warm climate, advance much more slowly, and is productive of different results on being removed to a cold one. The visceral diseases, however, which so frequently occur in tropical climates, may, perhaps, with equal propriety, be attributed to the abuse of vinous and spirituous liquors, and the use of stimulating condiments or articles of diet, as to the influence of the heat of the atmosphere. The complaints of Englishmen, after their return from a tropical climate, generally arise from debility, and even those who enjoyed good health during their residence in a tropical climate, become subject to a train of symptoms and hypocondriacal feelings, in consequence of nervous debility, and of the stomach and intestines not performing their offices. Without the use of a stimulus, neither the stomach nor the intestines will do their duty, but, generally speaking, they require only that kind of stimulus which will obviate costiveness; for if the lower intestines

perform their office, the stomach and duodenum will not require the use of a tonic, unless, indeed, the patient be far advanced in years, or his general health has been so far reduced as to be disposed to dropsy.

For the purpose of keeping up a proper secretion of feces, and a regular evacuation of them in such invalids, one, two, or three of the following pills may be taken every night or morning, according to their aperient effects :

Take of Alcaline Extract of Jalap, 1 drachm;

Aromatic Pill,\* half a drachm;

Dried Carbonate of Soda, a scruple;

Oil of Juniper Berries, 12 drops.

Mix and divide into 24 pills.

If the invalid be subject to irritation in the kidneys, bladder, prostate gland, or in the rectum; or to piles, or erysipelatous inflammation about the anus, (see fol. 40 & 41,) the aromatic pill should be omitted, and the mass divided into eighteen pills. In such case, a wine-glassful of the infusion of the buchu leaves may be taken with each dose of the pills, and repeated every morning and afternoon. If the kidneys should not perform their office, this infusion will be a necessary auxiliary to the composition of aromatic pill, &c.

In case the aperient pills of alcaline extract of jalap should not act sufficiently on the intestinal canal, the following formula may be substituted for them.

Take of Alcaline Extract of Jalap,

Extract of Colocynth,

Aleppo Scammony, of each half a drachm;

Ginger Powder, one scruple;

Oil of Juniper Berries, 10 drops.

Mix and divide into 24 pills.

Two, three, or four to be taken occasionally to unload the intestines, or one or two every night or morning, so as to occasion one copious alvine evacuation daily. If this composition should not prove sufficiently active, the pills and lavement recommended, folio 4 and 6, for obstinate costiveness, may be employed. We should prefer increasing the dose of the pills of the alcaline extract of jalap, because they do not disturb the processes of digestion (chymification and chylification), nor hurry the chyle into the large intestines. The pills appear to undergo digestion, no aperient effect being produced till the refuse of the chyme gets into the large intestines, a circumstance of great importance when the stomach and duodenum are irritable, or when they do not properly perform their office. On account of passing through digestion with the contents of the stomach, and of not increasing the peristaltic motion of the small intestines, the effect of increased action of the colon does not generally appear for four or six hours after they have been taken.

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\* This pill is composed of socolrine aloes, guaiac gum, aromatic species and Peruvian balsam. The College of Physicians have substituted for this formula, in their last Pharmacopœia, a composition under the name of compound powder of aloes.

If the powers of the system have been much reduced, the indications of which are, general relaxation, loss of appetite, flatulence, costiveness, swelling of the legs towards night, two tea-spoonsful of the aromatic tincture of quinine may be added to each dose of the infusion of buchu leaves; and if dropsy has taken place, or is about to take place, either in the extremities, belly, or chest, eight drops of the tincture of muriate of iron, and thirty drops of tincture of squills, may also be added.

If structural mischief has taken place in the substance, either of the liver, the spleen, stomach, colon, rectum, or prostate gland, the use of mercury will be necessary, for there is no other medicine capable of exciting the absorbent vessels of the diseased part, without which, medicine can only cooperate with diet in propping up the system against the undermining influence of the organic mischief. This article, as we have already observed, must be very gradually introduced into the habit, so as not to disturb the stomach or nervous system; and as a very small dose often exceeds its intended effect in some irritable invalids, its operation on the nervous system especially, should be most carefully watched. When the stomach is preternaturally irritable, or when acidity prevails in it, it is common for mercury, either in the form of calomel or blue pill, to disturb its functions and to disorder the whole nervous system; but on account of this effect—the mere *primary* action in the stomach, its use is not to be abandoned, the recovery of the patient being dependant on its action on the organic disease after it has passed the stomach.\* When the state of the stomach will not admit of its being introduced into the constitution through it, it may be mechanically forced into the system by rubbing half a drachm of mercurial ointment into the skin of the inside of the upper arm, or the inside of the thigh every night.

\* Mr. Abernethy attributes the beneficial effects of his simple constitutional treatment of local diseases by calomel or blue pill to its *tranquillizing* effects on the liver and stomach. Whatever be the condition of the liver, whether its size is increased or diminished, its substance hard or soft, its secretion too small or too large, or its nerves in a state of increased excitement from the irritation of dentition, or from diminished action from debility, mercury, mechanically divided either with conserve or chalk, or the submuriate of mercury (calomel), is his grand remedy for *tranquillizing* the liver, stomach, and duodenum. When a remedy succeeds in curing a diseased or disordered organ by *tranquillizing* it, a person of common sense would suppose that the affected part was in a state of morbid irritation, increased action, or vascular excitement. Now in the cases of indurated or thickened liver, from the influence of a tropical climate, we meet with in this country, there is a deposit in its cellular substance, which, by compressing its blood vessels and nerves, renders it torpid, or rather paralyses its powers; in such case, would any man attribute the beneficial effects of mercury to its "*tranquillizing* influence?" or would any practitioner of common sense administer medicine to *tranquillize* the organ? Even when the liver is in a state of debility or sluggishness, in consequence of having been long subjected to the stimulating influence of a tropical climate, without any deposit in its cellular substance or disorganization, a medicine capable of *tranquillizing* an irritated organ would be highly im-

'The cuticle being in some subjects more porous than in others, this mode of exhibiting mercury is not so certain as when it is introduced in small quantities into the stomach, so as not to irritate it or the intestines. Calomel, being a saline preparation of mercury, is very apt to disorder the stomach, and on some irritable subjects to act violently on the intestines, when administered in sufficient quantity to produce the desired constitutional or local action; and as to the blue pill, even Mr. Abernethy, with whom it is a very favourite remedy in affections of the liver, observes, "it is very uncertain in its effects." Indeed, of all the preparations of mercury, except the one commonly termed alcalised mercury (mercury with chalk), it is the most unchemical. In the first place, the conserve in which the quicksilver is mechanically divided, is rarely free from an acid, and when it exists the mercury becomes more or less saline, and consequently capable of acting violently on the stomach and bowels; and even when it is made with fresh conserve, free from the muriatic acid (often added by the wholesale makers to improve its colour), it will soon undergo a change which will render it acrimonious. Mr. Abernethy says, when the bowels are very irritable, he has found alcalised mercury (mercury with chalk) to *tranquillise* the liver, &c. after the

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proper; but the fact is, mercury acts beneficially in such cases, by promoting the biliary secretion and invigorating the absorbent vessels, and its beneficial effects on the general health arise as much from its operation on the secreting glands of the intestinal canal and the whole absorbent system, as on the liver. With the followers of the Abernethian system, any amendment of health, during the use of mercury, is considered as decisive of the accuracy of the opinions they had given of the disordered or diseased condition of the liver, as if the medicine acted on no other part of the body besides the liver, and when it fails to produce any salutary effect or prove injurious, some peculiarity of the stomach or of the nervous system, is urged as a reason for its not operating on the liver! Although no medicine has been more frequently prescribed in this country for the last thirty years than mercury, yet a difference of opinion exists among physicians (not surgeons) as to its medicinal effects, some contending that it is a direct sedative or inirritant, and others that it is a direct stimulus or irritant!! Surgeons or physicians acquainted with surgery, who are influenced by facts, and hold in contempt the wild theories of physicians *partially* acquainted with medicine, are satisfied that, although it does not act immediately as a stimulus to the sanguiferous system, and when it acts as an aperient or nauseates the stomach, it reduces the power of the heart and arteries, it uniformly promotes the action of the absorbent system, and, when it enters the system, it operates as a general stimulus, producing slight fever and inflaming the gums and salivary glands. Some physicians of the East and West Indies have noticed the beneficial effects of calomel, administered to the extent of a drachm daily, in cases of dysentery and acute inflammation of the liver and intestines, as a proof of its being a sedative, but, in all the cases in which it proved beneficial, it was administered with opium, and in these conclusions they have, in fact, attributed effects to the former which were produced by the latter; and the cases which terminated unfavourably clearly prove that when the stimulating effects of large doses of calomel are obviated by opium, or the irritation of the stomach and intestines reduced by it, it hastened dissolution.

bove preparations had disagreed with the patient; but this preparation is equally unchemical, the quicksilver being only coarsely divided with a portion of chalk by trituration, and which is readily separated on adding common water, the chalk having no affinity for the mercury: as for its having a more tranquillising effect than any other preparation of mercury, it is the chalk only that quiets the stomach. Being what is technically termed an absorbent, it prevents its purging, and every apothecary must know that it has the same effect when given in conjunction with calomel, or the blue pill. At the Hereford infirmary a blue pill was kept by the direction of the late Dr. Campell, made by triturating quicksilver in a little Venice turpentine and oil of turpentine, and when so well divided that the smallest article was not visible on microscopic inspection, it was made into a mass with Castile soap (previously dried and powdered). This mass keeps in a proper consistence for dividing into pills, readily dissolves and mixes with the contents of the stomach, and in consequence of its promoting the secretion of the kidneys, it acts more beneficially in cases of organic diseases, either of the liver, stomach, or any other abdominal viscera: but the most simple preparation of mercury is that which is sublimed through water, termed the *hydro-sublimed* calomel. The particles of quicksilver in this preparation are not only more minutely divided than in either calomel, blue pills, or any other in common use, but it is also much more mild, and when the object is to introduce mercury into the system without disordering the stomach or intestines, this is decidedly the best. Although this preparation was recommended to the attention of the faculty nearly thirty years since by Mr. Howard, and although it is not dearer than the prepared calomel, we are not aware of its having been prescribed in London by any physician except Dr. Babbington. It is much employed by eminent physicians and surgeons in the country,\* and why? because country practitioners, particularly the physicians and surgeons of provincial hospitals, are more alive to the new discoveries in medicine than a certain class of physicians of London, who seem perfectly satisfied with common routine practice, so long as their fee trade prospers.

It is very common for an invalid, who has returned from a tropical climate with either a diseased or disordered liver, to object to the use of mercury, because he supposes he had given it a *fair* trial; and when mercury, in any form, is proposed as a necessary auxiliary to other medicines, for him with a long face to exclaim, *Oh sir, I assure you I have taken calomel to the extent of twenty grains daily, till I have been salivated ten times, and even lost nearly all my teeth by its use, and the affection of my liver has not been diminished by it in the smallest degree; but my nervous system has been most terribly shaken by it.* Such patients we have always found very intelligent, and we have never met with an instance of one persisting in the resolution he had formed of not taking mercury, after a proper explanation of the

\* The author of the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia speaks very highly of this preparation, both as an internal and external remedy, and has given many formulæ for its use.

intention with which it was prescribed ; indeed, on a full and copious explanation of the object, they have steadily persevered in its use until the organic disease be rendered permanently quiescent, or the diseased structure nearly or entirely removed. If such a patient be told that it is absolutely necessary, during the use of stomachic and aperient medicines, to keep up the action of the absorbent vessels of the liver, or of any other part organically diseased, in order to remove the morbid deposit or structure, and thereby permanently to establish his health ; he must indeed be little short of an idiot not to submit to it. The object is to keep a constant fire on the enemy without disturbing the system, for if the nervous and vascular parts of the constitution be disturbed, the local disease will be aggravated, and hence, instead of such patients being benefited by salivation or mercurial fever in a tropical climate, the local disease is no doubt increased by it. We are to attack the disease with mercury, as the mouse proceeded to liberate the "lion caught in a net," to go on steadily and, as Mr. Abernethy observes, *quietly*, and the patient should be satisfied with the treatment so long as his general health improves, although the local disease may appear to be stationary, for he may rest assured that as long as the health of the body improves, the visceral disease will gradually diminish, so as to be rendered perfectly quiescent, or the viscous restored to health, by the cautious use of mercury. It has been our practice to order a grain or half a grain of the hydro-sublimed calomel, or four grains of the saponaceous blue pill, to be taken every night during the first week and third week of every month, and to discontinue its use as soon as a copperish state in the mouth, or slight irritation of the salivary glands or gums informed us that it was necessary to discontinue it, in order to prevent a general disturbance of the constitution, especially of the nervous and sanguiferous systems, which would not only aggravate the local mischief, but disorder the general health.

In languid habits, and in cases of disordered liver from slight organic disease, we have often found the invalid rapidly recover his general health, and the local disease gradually to disappear during the period of convalescence after mercurial fever and slight salivation ; and to the state of system which follows mercurial salivation, after the absorbent system has been brought into action, may be attributed the good effects which have followed the free use of mercury ; for during the progress of convalescence we have known local disease, which appeared to be increased by the mercurial action, or fever excited in the system, to decrease gradually till it totally disappeared. During the use of mercury in cases of organic disease of a viscous, the power of the stomach must be kept up, and the foecal secretion promoted by the medicines recommended, p. 86. It is very common, particularly in cases of organic disease of a viscous, either of the chest, abdomen or pelvis, for the membranous covering to be inflamed, and as the disease of the membrane is very different to that which has taken place in the substance of the viscous, this is a most unfortunate concomitant, inasmuch as it is often aggravated even by a very small dose of mercury, and never fails to disturb the general health. In such case it is often necessary to abstract blood by leeches,

or by cupping, although the patient be in a very debilitated state; but in general a blister over the part, with stimulants to the extremities, the warm or vapour bath, to increase the circulation of blood in the skin, &c. will succeed in dispersing it. After the inflammation or inflammatory excitement is reduced, the sedative plaster of the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia\* applied over the region of the affected viscus, we have found very beneficial. When the substance of the diseased viscus or the nervous system is in a state of morbid irritation, or when the patient is of an inflammatory habit, a sedative medicine should accompany the use of mercury, in order to confine its operation to the absorbent vessels, or to obviate its stimulating effects on the disturbed nervous and sanguiferous system, which would increase the general disorder of the constitution, and aggravate the organic mischief. With this view, three or four grains of the extract of henbane, or two or three of extract of hemlock, may be administered about every sixth or eighth hour for a few days previously to the exhibition of mercury, or with each dose of mercury two or three times a day, according to the degree of local irritation, or general nervous or febrile excitement. The directions we have already given respecting the management of the bowels in cases of simple disorder of the liver, stomach, &c. are applicable to disorders arising from diseased structure. With regard to substantial articles of diet, opinions diametrically opposite have been broached by physicians who pretend to have paid particular attention to their effects, not only on their patients but on themselves. Some contend that raw vegetables are the natural food of man, and if he were to adhere to it he would not require any kind of fluid; others assert that the vegetables should be boiled, in order to render them more easy of digestion; others that man is a vegeto-carnivorous animal, and when the stomach is capable of performing its office, a combination of meat and boiled vegetables is more readily converted into chyme than either a meal of vegetables or of meat: but when the stomach is in a state of increased or diminished excitement, a small meal of tender beef, mutton, or venison, underdone and well masticated, generally agrees best with the stomach, being frequently, in the most disordered stomach, converted into chyme without the distressing effects of heartburn, flatulence, and sense of oppression, which soon follow a meal of vegetables. Whatever be the condition of the stomach with respect to irritation, whether in a state of morbid excitement or debility, black and cayenne pepper act very beneficially in promoting the digestive process; and some physicians of Italy, who have

\* The following is a copy of the author's directions for making this plaster:—

Take of strong Mercurial Ointment, one ounce,  
Gum Ammoniac, six drachms,  
Extract of Belladonna, four drachms,  
Hydrocyanic Acid, thirty drops.

Reduce the gum to a fine powder, and with the extract and a little water form a thick mass, then mix it with the ointment and acid by rubbing them well together in a marble mortar.

observed their quieting effects in cases of inflammatory excitement of the stomach, and in allaying common gastric irritation, have termed them *stomachic sedatives*: and others observing their good effects in cases of indigestion from an opposite condition of the stomach, have bestowed high encomiums on them as a peculiar *stimulus*. The appearances of the feces, on which Mr. Abernethy lays much stress as indicative of the condition of the liver, certainly prove that animal food is more easily digested than either raw or boiled vegetables; for the muscular fibres are very seldom discoverable in them, even in cases of great debility, whilst portions of vegetables, especially when taken raw, often pass through the intestinal canal nearly in the same state in which they were swallowed: indeed no article of food is more indigestible with invalids who have resided some time in a tropical climate than raw vegetables; and the consequence of a common practice of taking a little celery with cheese on the conclusion of a dinner, is frequently a complete interruption of the digestive process, it acting like yeast in exciting fermentation, the productions of which are flatulence, eructations, heartburn, and often in gouty subjects violent spasms.

With respect to the *quantity* of food, Mr. Abernethy says, "It would be well if the public would read the writings of L. Cornaro, who having *naturally* a weak constitution, which he seemed to have ruined by intemperance, so that he was expected to die at the age of thirty-five, did at that period adopt a strict regimen, allowing himself only twelve ounces of food daily;" by this plan of diet he lived to more than one hundred years: "and it is," says Mr. Abernethy, "delightful to observe the *tranquil*, cheerful, and energetic state of mind accompanying his bodily health, and in a great degree induced by it." Cornaro found that as the powers of his stomach declined with the powers of life in general, it was necessary he should diminish the quantity of his food, and by so doing he retained to the last the *feeling* of health." To illustrate the advantage of this mode of living, Mr. Abernethy has annexed the following case of a Quaker.

"I could relate many instances of persons who were much emaciated, some of whom were of considerable stature, becoming muscular and fat upon four ounces of the most nourishing and easily digestible food, taken three times a day. A patient lately gave me the following account of his own proceeding with respect to diet. He said, When thou toldest me to weigh my food, I did not tell thee that I was in the habit of weighing myself, and that I had lost 14lbs. weight per month, for many months before I saw thee. By following thine advice, I have got rid of what thou didst consider as a very formidable local malady; and, upon thy allowance of food, I have regained my flesh, and feel as competent to exertion as formerly, though I am not indeed so fat as I used to be. I own to thee, that as I got better, I thought thy allowance was very scanty, and being strongly tempted to take more food, I did so; but I continued in the practice of weighing myself, and found that I regularly lost weight upon an increased quantity of food; wherefore I returned to that which was prescribed to me."

The experience of ages, both of medical and non-medical men, has

proved the truth of the old adage, 'what is one man's food is another man's poison,' and this applies not only to the quality or nature of food, but also to quantity. We have met with invalids who have become corpulent with a very small allowance of animal and vegetable food, and others who required three hearty meals of animal food daily to support the vital powers, and who on reducing the quantity experienced an intolerable sensation of corporeal debility and depression of spirits. In some subjects the power of sanguification is so great that they become plethoric during the use of small meals of the most unnutritious food. A gentleman of Vauxhall, strongly predisposed to apoplexy, although he avoided animal food and stimulants, and selected from the vegetable kingdom the articles which afforded the least nutriment, was under the necessity of losing twelve ounces of blood every fortnight for many months to keep off a fit of apoplexy, and within the last six months of his life, he found it necessary to lose the same quantity of blood weekly; and notwithstanding these preventive means were adopted on the occurrence of a symptom of approaching apoplexy, he fell a sacrifice to the disease. The sanguiferous system became overloaded with blood, a vessel of the brain gave way, and the effusion of blood produced fatal apoplexy. The fact is, the powers of sanguification, which one would suppose must depend on chylification, is much greater in some individuals than in others, and consequently that in one, two pounds of meat will produce no more blood than as many ounces in the other,—not, as Mr. Abernethy asserts, in consequence of the stomach not being able to digest the larger quantity, but from a peculiarity of stomach, or from some peculiar state of the power of sanguification with which physiologists are unacquainted; for if such persons be put on a low diet, their digestive organs instead of becoming more vigorous, as in the case of Cornaro, or Mr. Abernethy's *quaker*, partake of the general debility of the system from the want of nourishment, and many thousands have been hurried to their graves by following the dogmatical advice of narrow-sighted theorists, in adopting a diet contrary to their own inclinations, or, as Mr. Abernethy observes, "feelings of health."

With respect to the propriety of drinking during a meal, Mr. Abernethy observes, "water is the *only* diluent," and we are in the habit of mixing *alimentary* articles and stimulants with it. "Diluents *probably*," says he, "ought not to be taken during or immediately after a meal, since they would be likely to render the juices of the stomach less efficacious in the digestion of the food. Hunger and thirst seem to be incompatible sensations: an hungry animal would eat to satiety, and the *stimulus* of the food would bring on a discharge of the juices of the stomach, which have the power of digesting the food; nor is it probable that the sensation of thirst would be experienced till this operation of the stomach is effected." "If then," says Mr. Abernethy, "the sensation of thirst occurred, water would appease it, without frustrating the digestive functions, and *being absorbed from the alimentary canal, a CERTAIN portion of it would be furnished to the blood, and the SURPLUS would pass off from the lungs, skin, and kidneys.*"

Some theorists, who are chiefly celebrated for prolific powers of

imagination, finding that, in rabbits, the gastric juice acts on the surface of the contents of the stomach, and gradually passes into the mass, conclude, that a liquor taken during a meal must act injuriously by diluting the gastric secretion; but there is a great difference in the process of digestion in a graminivorous animal and that of man, the stomach of the latter being supplied with muscular fibres, for the purpose of agitating and mixing the food during digestion, so that the gastric juice, instead of acting on the surface of the food and passing gradually through it, becomes mixed with it, and the conversion of food into chyme is no doubt facilitated by this churning process. When a person, particularly one with a weak or irritable stomach, makes a meal of animal and vegetable fluid without a beverage, he feels a sensation of the stomach being overloaded, in consequence of the contents being too thick to be churned by the muscular fibres, which is generally removed by a draught of a simple or stimulating beverage, according to the state of stomach, as to debility or excitement, although it increases the distension. Invalids, whose stomachs have been accustomed to the use of vinous or spirituous liquors, absolutely find it necessary to take a stimulating beverage during dinner, to remove a distressing sense of oppression. The moderate use of a beverage during dinner, in our opinion, instead of occasioning indigestion by diluting the gastric juice, acts beneficially, by separating the fibres and exposing them to its action, and the contents being rendered thinner, the muscular coat more easily performs its churning office.

As to the idea of a certain portion of the water taken during or after a meal being furnished to the blood, and the surplus passing off from the lungs, skin, and kidneys, it is ridiculous, for it must be conveyed to the mass of blood to escape by these organs, and we presume considerable quantity of it is evacuated with the feces. The invalid, after the age of forty or forty-five, who has been exposed for some years to the stimulating influence of a tropical climate, or the free use of vinous or spirituous liquors in England, will find, on following the advice of Abernethy, by abandoning the use of a beverage during dinner, his stomach will not perform its office; he will, sooner or later, experience hypocondriacal feelings, in addition to his sufferings from indigestion, &c.; and, if he should persevere, he will probably discover that his vital powers have given way, and that the symptoms of local or general dropsy predominate. Of this we are certain, that many invalids from the East and West Indies, who have been induced to suppose that their general health was suffering from organic disease of the liver, have been hurried to their graves by suddenly abandoning their habit of taking a moderate quantity of spirituous or vinous liquor, or of a stimulating or diluting beverage, during dinner. The only distinction invalids who have resided in a tropical climate, or have indulged in the excessive use of cordials, have to make, is the extent their stamina may require to keep up the vital powers, and that which will stimulate the nervous system, and accelerate the circulation beyond the standard of health. If an invalid has been in the regular habit of indulging in an excessive use of wine or spirits, the effects of which, by accelerating the circulation and disordering the stomach, must necessarily, in a short time, undermine his constitu-

ion, it would be highly culpable to persevere in the practice ; he should, however, not relinquish it very gradually, in order that the system may not feel its loss, unless, indeed, *active* disease has taken place in an important organ, as the stomach, lungs, liver, &c. when it may be necessary to abandon it entirely.

Wine drinkers not taking wine after every meal, Mr. Abernethy says is a proof that wine is not necessary to their digestion. If they do not take wine during or after the morning or evening meal, they certainly take plenty of *liquids*, and these meals are generally so light and small in quantity, that the stomach, even of an inebriate, is equal to the digestion of them without the aid of wine ; but dyspeptic invalids, who take supper, generally find it necessary to indulge in a glass of some slight cordial after it, as weak brandy and water, and which, by *tranquillizing* the stomach and nervous system, often succeeds in procuring refreshing sleep, and, indeed, some nervous subjects cannot sleep without it.

In France it is the general practice to take wine *during* and not *after* dinner, and the great relief it affords, not only to an oppressed stomach, but general gratification to the whole system, or to the feelings of health, are much stronger arguments in favour of the practice than the silly one Mr. Abernethy has adduced against it. We speak of its *proper* use, in cases of debility, and as to the *quantity* which constitutes a *proper* use, no practitioner can lay down a rule applicable to every case of general weakness. The best advice is to regulate it by its effects, and leave off when it begins to exhilarate the mind or to excite the system, and this effect often depends not only on the state of the system at the time, but also on the density or some other state of the atmosphere.

Speaking of vegetable diet drinks, Mr. Abernethy observes, "they appear to be useful in *tranquillizing* and correcting the disorders of the stomach and bowels ; for this," says he, "is the manner in which they seem to be efficacious in the cure of local diseases. The vegetables prescribed in the different formulae are so dissimilar, (says he,) that I cannot suppose that they act *specifically* upon the local disease, for even sweetwort has obtained considerable celebrity." Diet drinks of this country differ very little from the tisanes of France, where they are prescribed, even by the most eminent physicians, to the extent of two or three quarts daily, to purify the blood ; and they are also such favorites with the public, that invalids, whatever their complaints may be, take no other remedy, under the ridiculous idea that their disorders depending on a foul condition of the blood, it can be of no use to take strengthening medicines until it is corrected. They all contain a small proportion of mucilage ; and to its diluting effects we are disposed to attribute the benefit they often produce in cases of irritation or inflammatory excitement of membranes.

The decoction of sarsaparilla, so much recommended by Mr. Abernethy to *tranquillize* the stomach, and thereby to correct local diseases, appears, on chemical examination, to contain nothing but mucilage ; and in those cases where a mucilaginous decoction is proper, it is less efficacious than the decoction of marshmallow root or infusion of linseed. As it must pass through the process of digestion, it seems to us somewhat inconsistent to order half a pint or a pint

of it to be taken three or four times a day, after laying down a system of diet, the object of which is not to fatigue the stomach. With respect to the powers of the decoction of sarsaparilla in tranquillizing the stomach and correcting the constitution, we have never met with a case of indigestion from diseased or disordered liver, or from debility, in which it did not distress the stomach, and, by relaxing this organ, we have very frequently observed invalids, who were taking it under the direction of Mr. Abernethy and others, to become emaciated, and their stomach and bowels to become flabby; and in those countries where diet drinks are held in great estimation, as sweeteners of the blood, or correctors of vitiated constitutions, diseases of the stomach and bowels, (similar to those of which pigs frequently die that are kept by brewers on grains and stale beer, or sheep in marshy countries,) are more prevalent than even pulmonary consumption, which is termed by some French writers the English malady, is in this country.

In cases of indigestion from nervous excitement of the stomach, a diet drink often proves beneficial, by cooling the stomach, and by diluting its contents; but in such cases it possesses no advantage over common water, and, according to the reports of Dr. Lambe and others, is less beneficial than water rendered pure by distillation, or the water of the holy well of Malvern, which is celebrated for its purity, and which, indeed, has succeeded in curing local diseases, scrofulous, or what may be termed scrofulo-cancerous, after diet drinks had produced no corrective effects whatever, but had evidently debilitated the stomach. If diet drinks act only as diluents, as some imagine, surely it is better to employ such correctives as will not, like the diet drinks, fatigue the stomach, or waste the secretion of the gastric glands by passing through digestion, as the distilled water, or the Malvern water.

Not only should the stomach be *tranquillized* by medicine, and by proportioning the quantity of food to its digestive powers, but the whole body when the stomach is engaged in performing its digestive operation. As instinct is a better guide than reason, Mr. Abernethy recommends his patients, after a meal, "to imitate animals, who rest during the digestion of their food, and drink when it is accomplished;" and, as they frequently observe an horizontal position, Mr. A. generally indulges in a nap in that state immediately after dinner. If these said animals were erect like man, instead of lying down during digestion, they would probably sit down like man. A nap for ten or fifteen minutes in a chair, to those who become drowsy after dinner, and to nervous subjects, has a very beneficial effect in quieting the system, but when taken in an horizontal position, the vessels of the brain become so overloaded with blood, as to occasion stupor and a sense of general debility, and even to disturb digestion; and in subjects predisposed to apoplexy, "a close imitation of the practice of animals" after a meal might produce a fatal fit. It is on this account that full suppers are so much condemned by the most experienced writers, or rather the numerous facts of subjects in an apparent healthy state disposed from original formation to apoplexy, having been found dead in their beds, after retiring with a full stomach. Invalids from diseases of the liver, particularly those who have resided in a tro-

pical climate, are very subject to congestion of the blood vessels of the brain, not from increased influx or determination of blood to it as stated by some writers, or of general plethora, but from the return of blood being impeded by the mechanical effects of a diseased liver, and in those the "animal practice" would prove very injurious.

The warm water or vapour bath twice a week, and the use of flannel next the skin\*, by promoting the circulation, and of course the sensible and insensible perspirative secretions of the skin, are powerful auxiliaries to medicine in cases of disordered or diseased liver, stomach, or any other viscus, especially in invalids who have been much exposed to a tropical climate. Some practitioners have recommended the use of wash leather instead of flannel, but a great objection to it is in consequence of its retaining of perspirable matter, it becomes so moist after exercise as to stick to the skin and produce a sensation of cold on taking rest. Some intelligent gentlemen from the East Indies have assured us, that they have found the flannel waistcoat next the skin more beneficial in keeping up a regular temperature when covered with black silk; and we know some invalids after adopting it, to continue free from gouty and rheumatic pains, to which they had been previously very subject.

The galvanic fluid passed through the abdominal viscera has no doubt proved very beneficial in cases of indolent bowels and of diminished secretion of bile; but when organic disease has taken place in a viscus, or when inflammatory excitement exists, or the nervous system is too susceptible of impressions, it is very likely to do much mischief. When the bowels are evidently in a debilitated state, the abdominal bandage, described in vol. iii., by supporting the integuments, is an important auxiliary to medicine, and in far advanced cases of indigestion may prevent effusion of serum, & dropsy. The bowels should not be so much compressed by it as to impede the circulation by compressing the blood vessels, the consequence of which would be a determination of blood to the head, which in a person predisposed to apoplexy might produce serious mischief. It should also be slackened after dinner.

Inhalation of vital air (pure oxygen) to the extent of a gallon twice a day has proved beneficial in cases of diseased liver, probably by conducting more carbon and inflammable gas from the blood than atmospheric air does. It has uniformly the effect of correcting the fœtor of the breath, which is always more or less attendant on organic disease of this organ. The sea air, which is certainly more pure than that of an inland country, being free from carbonic acid gas, has a similar beneficial effect. Mr. Abernethy, speaking of pure air, observes, "patients under the irritation of scat disease, who scarcely eat or sleep in town, recover their appetite, digestion and sleep so suddenly on their removal into the country, as to leave no room for doubting, that the change of air had produced this beneficial alteration in their health."

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\* See article Flannel in the present number.

On the necessity of exercise, Mr. Abernethy makes the following observations.

" Whenever circumstances would permit, I have recommended the patients to take as much exercise as they could, short of producing fatigue; to live much in the open air: and, if possible, not to suffer their minds to be agitated by anxiety, or fatigued by exertion. The advantages of exercise, upon which disorders of the digestive organs in general so greatly depend, appear to me very striking. Many people, who are extremely irritable and hypochondriacal, and are constantly obliged to take medicines to regulate their bowels whilst they live an inactive life, no longer suffer from nervous irritation, or require aperient medicines, when they use exercise to a degree that would be excessive in ordinary constitutions. The inference which I draw from cases of this description is, that nervous tranquillity is restored in consequence of the superfluous energy being exhausted by its proper channels, the muscles. When, on the contrary, the nervous system is weak and irritable, exercise seems equally beneficial; but caution is here requisite as to the degree in which it should be taken. A weak and irritable patient may not be able to walk more than half a mile without nearly fainting with fatigue on the first day of the experiment; but by persevering in the effort, he will be able to undergo considerable muscular exertion without weariness. Does not this imply a considerable increase of bodily strength, and is not the acquisition of strength the chief desideratum in the cure of many disorders? The nervous irritability, also, when dependant on weakness alone, will proportionably diminish with its cause. In the latter case, the nervous energy seems to be augmented in consequence of our increasing the demand for it. I am induced to make these observations, from a belief that exercise is not employed as a *medical* agent, to the extent that its efficacy seems to deserve; of its *medical* effects I entertain a high opinion; it is, however, right to direct patients with regard to its use, not to exert themselves for some time previously to a meal, nor for three hours after. I would prescribe to my patients the following rules: they should rise early when their powers have been refreshed by sleep, and actively exercise themselves in the open air till they felt a slight degree of fatigue; they should rest one hour, then breakfast, and rest three hours, in order that the energies of the constitution should be centred in the work of digestion; then take active exercise again for two hours, rest one; then taking their dinner, they should rest for three hours, exercise two, rest one, and take their third slight meal. I do not allow the state of the weather to be urged as an objection to the prosecution of measures so essential to health, since it is in the power of every one to protect themselves from cold by clothing, and the exercise may be taken in a chamber with the windows thrown open, by walking actively backwards and forwards as sailors do on ship-board."

When the abdominal viscera are in an indolent state, riding on a horse, by exercising the viscera and by engaging the mind, will

more beneficial than walking or riding in a carriage with riags ; but if an organ be disordered by inflammatory excite-  
r by far advanced organic disease, or if the bladder or rectum  
ted with irritative or active disease, the exercise of walking  
ng should be preferred. Corporeal exercise will not succeed  
roving the general health, unless the mind be pleasantly  
d or brought into action ; indeed corporeal exercise and  
watering places operate on the general health as much, if  
e, through the medium of the mind than directly on the body,  
patient who takes exercise reluctantly, or does not bring  
d into action as well as his body, generally experiences more  
than benefit from it. The mineral waters of Cheltenham,  
other fashionable watering places, have had the credit of  
which were effected by exercise, mental amusement, early  
and regular meals, and without them the saline aperient  
in diseases of the liver, stomach and intestines, would most  
y have proved injurious. The observations we have made  
waters and aperient salts, in cases of constitutional cos-  
, are equally applicable to disorders or diseases of any part  
abdominal viscera.

nitro-muriatic bath, which has been highly extolled by some  
opers of the East Indies as a remedy for "diseases of the liver  
ious complaints," we have never known to afford the slightest  
nt have met with many cases in which it proved very inju-  
y disordering the brain and bowels.

Daubenton has extolled ipecacuan powder, in the small dose  
r two grains, as a remedy for indigestion or diseased liver,  
ly people, particularly when accompanied with phlegm  
the upper part of the gullet, the palate, or in the stomach,  
uch cases, we have known one grain taken at bed-time to  
medicinal in carrying off redundant phlegm. Ipecacuan, by  
g the internal lining of the stomach and gullet, occasions it  
off the phlegm or slime that may be adhering to it, so that  
es off with the chyme. It may also afford relief by pro-  
less adhesive secretion, and by diminishing the quantity  
ioning a determination of blood to the surface of the body,  
reasing the secretions of the skin. In elderly people of  
constitutions, or of leucophlegmatic habits, or disposed to  
l swellings of the legs, this medicine, by nauseating the  
, has, in a few days, induced such a degree of general de-  
but even the most powerful stimulants have failed to pro-  
y salutary effect, the patients generally complaining of  
o rallying power.

*ment of Costiveness in Scrofulous Subjects.*—By all medical  
scrofula is termed a disease of debility. Cullen, in his  
, thus describes it, " tumefaction of the conglobate glands,  
f the neck, swelling of the upper lip and soft parts of the  
rid cheeks, soft skin, and enlarged abdomen." Dr. Good  
to be " a disease of debility, operating by a *specific influence*  
*rculating*, and particularly on the lymphatic system ;" but  
this influence is, as is supposed, " the result of a specific

matter," the doctor admits is not clear to him. The prevalent idea that the specific matter is from the first a peculiar irritant or an acrimony, he positively asserts to be a mistake; for, says he, "the disease is accompanied throughout with diminished instead of increased irritability," and hence, in his opinion, the power producing it must be more of a *sedative* nature than of an *exciting* or *actuating* quality; and it is in this diminution of irritability, proceeds the doctor, that scrofula differs from *all* other diseases of weakness, since the *debility* and *irritability* generally augment in like proportion, and maintain an equal march."

In refutation of this opinion, we need only notice a fact, well known to the surgeons of provincial hospitals, that scrofulous affection more frequently occurs in robust than in debilitated subjects, whose muscular system shews no deficiency of irritability, and whose sanguiferous system is in a plethoric state and evinces increased strength.\* Every surgeon of observation knows that the progress of scrofulous tumefaction of glands is increased by a *stimulating* cataplasm; and, if it arose from debility, surely a local stimulant would have a contrary effect. In cases of white swelling, scrofulous affections of the periosteum and of organs, stimulants evidently prove injurious. The idea which generally obtains among routine practitioners, that scrofula is a disease of debility, has assuredly led to a maltreatment of the disease; and, from long observation, we have no hesitation in saying, that, by the use of stimulating or tonic medicines, and a stimulating generous diet, many thousands have been hastened to their graves in this country, and to it we ascribe the prevalence of pulmonary consumption. Dr. Lambe, a physician of great experience and observation, who has paid particular attention to scrofula, states that he has found nothing more efficacious in arresting the progress of scrofula, and in preserving the scrofulous habit in a healthy state, or free from local mischief, than a vegetable diet; and he condemns the use of any kind of stimulants.

Dr. Good observes, that "this disease of the lymphatic system often extends itself to the eyes, the mucous glands of the nose, the tonsils, and even the joints and bones; as gout that ordinarily shews itself at first in the *small* joints, and rheumatism in the *large* joints, spread

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\* With respect to the assertion so frequently made by routine physicians, that *debility* and *irritability* generally augment in like proportion, and maintain an equal march, i. e. that irritability increases with debility, we really discover nothing in it but jargon, to which the ignorant most have recourse in order to cover their ignorance, or to prevent inquisitive enquiries. Irritability is a power residing in muscles; and if it be diminished in a muscle its power will of course be diminished; is it not then ridiculous to say that the irritability augments in proportion as the debility of the body increases? When a muscle exhibits an increase of power, as in cases of acute and chronic spasms, it is attributed to increased irritability, and this increase routine practitioners ascribe to *debility*!! The fact is, without such jargon or obscurity of technicalities, the *fee-trade* could not be supported. It is common for the mind and nervous system to become too susceptible of impressions, or excitable as the strength of the body declines; but the *irritability*, a property inherent in muscles, decreases in proportion as the body becomes weak.

not unfrequently to the membranes and the muscles." One would suppose by this remark, that the doctor was not aware that the lymphatic system pervades the whole body. The doctor, regarding the disease as one of debility, directs his readers to adopt a *tonic and stimulating* treatment. He admits that the alkaline remedies have proved beneficial; but not as some *chemical* theorists have imagined, by *neutralizing* acidity in the stomach, or acrimony that has generated in the system, although he does not deny the existence of the latter, but from its *stimulating* effects! "They are," says he, "*gentle stimulants, admirably adapted to the debilitated and indolent condition of the vascular system*; and hence, observes the doctor, in whatever form they are given, they have a *chance of doing good.*" The late Dr. Baillie stated that he uniformly found alkaline medicine to *decrease the action of the vascular system*, and consequently to *reduce the vital powers*. When such *great* authorities differ, who dare to presume to decide which is right? except, indeed, the great doctors Shearman, Copland, Eady, and Solomon, who are never at a loss to explain every phenomenon. We confess we have never witnessed any beneficial effects from alkaline medicines in scrofula, when an acid did not prevail in the stomach, or when uric acid did not predominate in the urine, or when the sensible perspiration did not redden litmus paper. "It is to this principle (alkaline)," says Dr. Good, "that we are *perhaps* to resolve *all* the advantage that has been stated by different writers, and in the different ages of the world, to have resulted from the use of burnt sponge, burnt cuttle fish, burnt shells of all kinds, burnt hartshorn, and burnt secundines." The doctor seems to be as great in chemistry as he is in anatomy. It is the first time we have heard of burnt hartshorn, burnt cuttle fish, and burnt secundines being alkalines. The true burnt hartshorn and calcined cuttle-fish bone is phosphate of lime, and, if not adulterated with chalk, will not effervesce on the addition of an acid. "In our days," says Dr. Good, "all these remedies have deservedly yielded to the carbonate of soda, or subcarbonate of potash, which," adds the doctor, "in a more *elegant and concentrated* form, offer *whatever* virtues may be contained in the old medicines"! Now if the same effects are produced by the carbonate of soda, how can he attribute its efficacy to the stimulating influence of the *alcali* on the vascular system? The carbonate of soda is *not* an alcali, the soda being neutralized by carbonic acid gas. The doctor may say, as some *legitimate* routine physicians have said, how can this be the case when the carbonate is capable of neutralizing acidity in the stomach, and of curing heartburn? When the carbonate of soda or potash meets with an acid in the stomach, for which the alkaline base has a greater attraction than for the carbonic acid, it of course unites with the former, and the latter is disengaged in a gaseous form. In good carbonate of soda, the alcali is as much neutralized by the carbonic acid, as by the sulphuric acid in glauber's salt, or the muriatic acid in common salt; and no person acquainted with chemistry would term the carbonate of soda, or the carbonate of potash, an *alcali*.

Lime water and the muriate of barites, the latter of which Dr. VOL. X.

Adam Crawford, about forty years since, introduced as a **SPECIFIC** remedy for scrofula, Dr. Good observes, can only prove beneficial from the *general principle* of their being *stimulants*, and especially of the lymphatic system ; and the same, says he, may be observed of parsley, sarsaparilla, meserion, balsam of sulphur, *calamus aromaticus*, and horse raddish, ALL of which have had their votaries in their days." The balsam of sulphur unquestionably diminishes irritability ; and, as to the decoction of sarsaparilla, if it ever did produce any salutary effect, we should attribute it more to its quieting or tranquillizing effects as a *diluent* than any *stimulating* quality it possesses. Dr. Cullen found the coltsfoot more beneficial in correcting the scrofulous habit than any other medicine, and it imparts to boiling water nothing but a mucilage, similar to that of sarsaparilla. We have given the marshmallow root a preference to sarsaparilla because it affords a greater quantity of mucilage ; and we have very frequently witnessed its beneficial effects in scrofulous affections, no by *stimulating* the vascular or lymphatic system, but by allaying irritation.

It appears to us that scrofula is not produced by any specific poison or acrimony, but that it is dependant only on the original delicate structure and excitability of the whole lymphatic system and if this idea be correct, the object of practice is not to stimulate the body, or any particular system of it, but to keep down irritation in the lymphatic system, and to strengthen it by gentle tonics and this treatment we have uniformly found beneficial.

Scrofula, like almost every other disease, has its stages. In the first stage it is decidedly a disease of increased action. The local affections are inflammatory, and they have a peculiar character probably in consequence of being confined to the lymphatic gland and vessels. After suppuration has taken place, or the disease has arrived to its last stage, the circulation generally become languid, the skin pale, and the stomach of course partakes of the general debility of the body ; hence powerful and indeed *stimulating* tonics are often necessary. The object of this article is not to lay down directions for the treatment of the different stages of scrofula but to give instructions for the management of the bowels, &c. of scrofulous subjects, so as to secure the lungs, joints, glands &c. against mischief, or, in other words, to keep the lymphatic system in a quiet state, and to strengthen it, so as to subdue morbid excitement, or the predisposition in it to inflammatory action.

Costiveness is a complaint to which scrofulous subjects are very liable, and being a general precursor of disorder of the lymphatic system, or of structural mischief in the lungs, mesenteric glands, joints, and the glands of the neck, it may be considered so far a exciting cause of the disease, that, had it been obviated, it would not have come into action. An occasional use of an aperient medicine is not only necessary as a *preventive* of local mischief in a scrofulous subject, but even when it has come into action it is less important to keep up a regular alvine discharge, in order to give topical and constitutional remedies a fair trial, which are sup-

posed to act specifically on the disease, and it is probably to a neglect of this essential part of treatment that remedies, which have been highly extolled by some surgeons as correctors of scrofula, have failed in the practice of others. Iodine has, within the last two years, been much recommended by several respectable surgeons of France, Germany, and England, and from the numerous cases of scrofula which have been published in this and other journals, there can be no doubt of its possessing an antiscrofulous property; but it has been observed, that if the bowels be not kept in a proper state, the article is very apt to disorder the stomach and head, and even to excite slight fever, and considerable irritation in the salivary glands, and these effects have induced some physicians, from ignorance of the cause, to abandon its use.\*

The best aperient medicine for obviating costiveness in scrofulous subjects is jalap, because it does not disturb either the process of chymification in the stomach, or of chylification in the duodenum, or prevent absorption of the chyle for the due nourishment of the body, by hurrying it through the small intestines, its peculiar aperient effects arising from its action on the internal membrane of the colon, by increasing its fecal secretion. The alkaline extract is the best preparation of the root, which may be given in conjunction with the dried carbonate of soda and an aromatic, in the following proportions:

Take of the Alkaline Extract of Jalap, 1 drachm :

Essential Oil of Caraway Seeds, 10 drops ;

Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, 1 scruple.

Mix and divide into twenty pills, of which two or three may be taken every night or morning, so as to produce one proper alvine evacuation daily.

As a constitutional remedy we know of none worthy a trial except iodine. The best form for exhibiting this article is the tincture, of which from twenty to thirty drops may be taken two or three times a day, in a large wine-glass or small tea-cupful of the decoction of marshmallow root or coltsfoot. If the powers of the system have decreased, the Peruvian bark may be boiled with the marshmallow root or coltsfoot, in the proportion of half an ounce to a pint of the strained decoction.

As a topical application to neglected scrofulous tumours, either of glands or joints, the following embrocation may be used twice a day,

\* We have given iodine an extensive trial, in a variety of scrofulous affections, and in every instance it has evinced a power of correcting the scrofulous habit, and of curing local affections through the medium of the stomach. In some patients it seems to have completely corrected the constitution, not having, for upwards of two years, experienced any scrofulous affection, although, previously to its use, they had been subject to swelling of glands of the neck, &c. every spring. In others, in whom it had not so happy an effect, it has never failed to check the progress of glandular swelling, and, in a few weeks, to disperse them. We have always paid attention to the regulation of the bowels. We have also been very particular in employing the true German iodine, prepared from sponge, which is very superior to that made in Scotland.

either by rubbing the part gently with it by means of some fine soft flannel, or by applying flannel moistened with it over the part.

Take of Iodine, 20 grains;

Rectified Oil of Amber, 4 drachms;

Rectified Spirits, 2 ounces.—Mix.

On adding the rectified oil of amber to the iodine, a combustion takes place, and when this is finished the spirit should be added.

The following ointment we have found very efficacious in dispersing scrofulous tumours, during the use of the tincture of iodine, &c.

Take of Hydriodate of potash, 1 drachm;

Elder Flower Ointment,\* 6 drachms.—Mix.

As an auxiliary to medicine and diet, the most powerful is sea air. The diet should be adapted to the state of the general health, and particularly to that of the sanguiferous system.

We shall conclude this article with an extract from Mr. Abernethy's work on the constitutional treatment of local diseases:

"I have remarked in many instances that diseases of the absorbent glands, such as are usually denominated scrofulous, occurring in adults, have apparently originated from the disorder of the digestive organs. In several cases the local disease was of long duration, and had become worse rather than better under various plans of medical treatment; yet it amended regularly, and sometimes even quickly, in proportion as the state of the digestive organs was corrected. I need not detail any cases on this occasion, since every surgeon must know them familiarly. The patients are commonly sent to the sea side, or into the country, where enlarged glands subside, and those which have suppurated and ulcerated heal; and the local disease recovers in proportion as the health in general is amended.

"There are cases of scrofulous diseases occurring suddenly, and in various parts of the body at the same time, which seem to originate in that state of the constitution which is occasioned by disorder of the digestive organs. I have chiefly observed these cases in children, and they have followed some violent febrile affection. In two cases, which I shall particularly mention, the small-pox was the antecedent disease. I have already stated, that when the health has been considerably disordered by some violent disease, the digestive organs may become subsequently affected, and that this disorder proves a cause of many secondary diseases."

The two cases to which Mr. Abernethy alludes are so very similar, that it is only necessary to give one to illustrate the great advantages of his simple mode of treatment.

"A child of two years old had the small-pox, from which he did not seem to recover, but on the contrary fell into a very bad state of health. The absorbent glands on the right side of the neck became enlarged in succession, so as to form altogether a very considerable tumour, which extended down to the collar bone. The axillary glands then became affected in the same manner; the swelling was unusually

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\* The ointment of elder flowers is preferable to the spermaceti ointment, on account of its entering the cuticle on friction with much more facility.

great, and seemed to extend under the pectoral muscle, elevating it, and forming by this means a continuation of tumour with the glands of the neck. These swellings had partially suppurated, and had broken in two places, viz. in the neck, and about the margin of the pectoral muscle: but no relief followed; on the contrary, the mass of disease seemed to be rapidly increasing. The child was bowed forwards, so that the spine was much curved in the loins; the left leg appeared paralytic, and a swelling was perceived in the abdomen, which I could not but ascribe to an enlargement of the external iliac glands. The child was extremely emaciated, his skin felt hot and dry, his tongue was covered with a brown fur, and the stools were black and highly offensive. As there was no expectation that he could survive this desperate state, those medicines only were prescribed that seemed likely to correct the state of the digestive organs: such as occasional doses of calomel and rhubarb. A strict attention to diet was also recommended. Under this treatment the stools gradually became natural, and the tongue clean. The disease seemed to stop immediately. As the health was restored, the swellings rapidly subsided, and the child became one of the healthiest and stoutest of the family."

In the second case the joints as well as many glands were considerably enlarged; the latter so much so that Mr. Abernethy observes, "had I seen either joint, as a single case of disease, I should have said that it would leave the child a cripple." The same simple treatment succeeded as in the preceding case. To the last case he has subjoined the following remarks.

"I have heard it remarked by surgeons of great experience, that patients often recover when many scrofulous diseases appear at the same time; although some of them may be so considerable, that they would seem to warrant amputation had they appeared singly. The cases which I have related afford a most clear and satisfactory account of the mode of recovery. General irritation and weakness bring on diseases, to which perhaps a predisposition may exist in several parts of the body; these cease when their exciting cause is removed.

"Of late indeed I have been equally surprised and rejoiced to see swellings of the absorbent glands in children readily dispersed by that medical attention to correct errors in the functions of the digestive organs, which I have described. Some of these swellings came on rapidly, and some slowly; but these were so large and so much inflamed, that if any person had formerly told me they might be dispersed by such measures, I should have thought the assertion an absolute absurdity, from its direct contradiction to my former experience.

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#### TORPIDITY OF THE BOWELS, &c.

Sirs,—I shall feel much obliged to you to give the following cases a place in your valuable journal.

I am Sirs, your obedient Servant,  
JOHN AGNEW, Surgeon.

*To the Editors of the Monthly Gazette of Health.*

Miss — —, aged 43, had been affected for many years with severe pain in the region of the liver, accompanied by great sallowness of complexion, general languor, and obstinate torpor of the bowels, on account of which she was obliged to make constant use of strong purgative medicines, and had taken such quantities of calomel, which had evidently injured her constitution. I applied galvanism to the seat of pain, and to the abdomen generally, and, after having used it only *four* times, her bowels became susceptible of the action of a very gentle laxative medicine. After this, I employed electric sparks, sometimes the vibratory motions, for three weeks. For sometime past she has been entirely free from pain in the side, her countenance has regained its healthy appearance, and her bowels, by strict attention to diet, continue to act regularly, without the intervention of medicine.

Miss — —, aged 26, (niece to the above lady,) was affected for eight months with violent pain and stiffness of both angles of the lower jaw, frequently conjoined with a general swelling of both sides of the neck, nearly reaching the clavicles. The rigidity and pain was often so severe as to preclude the possibility of opening her mouth to receive nourishment, and was uniformly increased by the least exposure to cold air, and by exertion of the parts in attempting to speak. She at length became quite despondent, in consequence of not being able to enjoy the society of her friends. Various embrocations, &c. had been employed at different periods, but without any essential benefit. I conveyed the galvanic influence from one angle of the jaw to the other, for twenty minutes, during three successive days, and then every second day, for four times more. Her distressing affection has been entirely removed, nor has she had any return of it for the last two months, though equally, or rather more exposed to all its former existing causes.

The result of galvanism in these cases, I think, proves that the remedy is a very powerful agent in removing many species of morbid action, when its application is directed by rational and scientific principles.

As I am unwilling to occupy more room in a single number of your work, I shall transmit a few equally interesting cases relative to the influence of galvanism on the animal economy, for a future number.

39, St. James's Place, St. James's Street.

March 11th, 1825.

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## DIABETES.

It appears by an article in a French Journal, that notwithstanding soups and slops constitute the principal part of the diet of Frenchmen, and their partiality to diet drinks, diabetes, which is by no means an uncommon disease in this country, very rarely occurs in France. The principal physician of the first hospital in Paris, says,

that he has only had one case of diabetes during the fifty years he has held the appointment to the Institution. The active and scientific Vanquelin and Segalas availed themselves of that opportunity to ascertain if the assertion of some authors of the existence of sugary matter in the *blood*, in the proportion of one-thirtieth part of that which is found in the urine, was correct. On chemical examination, they found the urine to contain a considerable quantity of sugar, but in the serum of the blood they could not detect any. The result of these experiments confirm the statement made some time since by the scientific and observant Depuytren and Thenard, viz. that the presence of sugar in the urine was the consequence of a morbid action of the secreting vessels of the kidneys, and that it did not exist in the blood; an opinion which, we believe, generally prevails among the surgeons of this country.

In consequence of the absence of *urea*, the predominating constituent of healthy urine being absent in the urine of diabetic patients, Dr. Asselin prescribed *urea*, but it had no effect on the secretion of the kidneys, neither was it detected in the urine.

We were so much *amused* by Mr. Abernethy's remarks on the cause of diabetes, that we shall, in a future number, take the trouble to transcribe them, with the view of *amusing*, not of instructing those readers who feel a little *ennui* on reading medical works.

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## GOUT, RHEUMATISM, &c.

About eight years since, the *root* of colchicum was extolled by Mr. Thompson, and other respectable practitioners, as a remedy for gout, rheumatism, and other diseases of inflammatory excitement, who were induced to give it a trial in those diseases, in consequence of supposing that it was the basis of the *eau medicinale*, a *rostrum* introduced into this country as an "infallible specific for gout," by a Dr. Jones, who, like Dr. Shearman, Dr. Copland, and Dr. Scudamore, styled himself a *member* of the Royal College of Physicians of London. A banker's clerk, of the name of Reynolds, seeing the receipt for a tincture of colchicum in a respectable monthly work (the New Monthly Magazine), lost no time in making it, and advertising it as a *safe remedy* for gout, with directions for its use. It was represented as an *infallible quieter* of gouty and rheumatic pains, and for a short time it experienced such a demand, that the proprietor was soon enabled to keep his carriage, and support an establishment equal with the *squire* of his parish. We must do him the justice to say, that he really considered it safe and efficacious, having always had recourse to it when he was assailed by gout, to which he had, for some years, been a martyr; and it is probable that the relief he experienced from it, induced him to give it publicity, for the benefit of his fellow-sufferers. Experience certainly proved it to be an "infallible quieter of pain;" but, unfortunately for its reputation, on some subjects its *quieting* operation was not confined

to the pain of the disease, having extended itself to the heart; and on some patients its *quieting* effects were so extensive and sudden, that they did not survive the dose many hours; and it is said, that the proprietor himself experienced its "extraordinary quieting effect," having died somewhat suddenly after taking it. This unfortunate result only proves the truth of the old saying, "What is one man's food is another man's poison." Dr. Williams, of Ipswich, who represents himself to be a "high-bred legitimate physician," about three years since, published a work against a remedy brought forward by his neighbour, Dr. Wilson, which he condemns, under the *supposition* of its being a preparation of the root of the colchicum. The doctor discovering, to his great mortification, the public were too enlightened on the subject of medicine to be influenced by declamatory remarks, founded on mere *supposition*, *luckily* discovered that although the root was injurious in cases of gout, the *seeds* were safe and efficacious; and certain it is, the tincture of the seeds, particularly the *alcaline*, has been found very beneficial in cases of gout, rheumatism and other diseases, arising from morbid excitement of nerves, as asthma, St. Vitus's dance, &c.

The doctor's recommendation of the seeds having diverted the attention of gouty subjects from Dr. Scudamore's splendid system of gout, &c. which required no less than a *twenty shilling volume* to promulgate, that *physician* brought forward an *acid* extract of the root of colchicum, a *new* preparation made by evaporating the *old* one—the vinegar of colchicum !! Such a discovery certainly could not raise the *reputation* of the physician in the opinion of practitioners acquainted with pharmacy, and those acquainted with the pathology of the disease would not think of administering an article in combination with the *acetic* acid. Of all the paltry preparations that have been brought forward in this or any other country, we have no hesitation in saying, this is the most contemptible. If the article is corrected in any degree by the acetic acid, why injure it and dissipate part of it by evaporation? Besides, the virtue of the root itself is considerably deteriorated by boiling. When a grain of the powdered root is a dose, one would suppose no *medical* man would think of making an extract of it. The object of making extracts is, to *concentrate* the virtue of articles in order that it may be administered without disgusting patients, either by quantity, or by nauseating or oppressing the stomach. It may be said, the acetic acid only extracts certain parts of the root, but this is not the case, because the vinegar of colchicum contains the same constituent parts as the tincture, viz.: the resin and gum, and the addition of vinegar most unquestionably increases their drastic effects on the stomach and bowels. If this preparation had been brought forward by a legitimate physician, we might have attributed it to ignorance of chemistry, rather than to the "pro bono publico" spirit of quacks; but that a physician who a few years since practised as an humble apothecary in a village near London, should puff it off as superior to the other preparation, really astonishes us.

(To be continued.)

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 113.]

To MAY 1, 1825.

[VOL. X.

## PHYSIC.

### COSTIVENESS—(continued from p. 105.)

*Costiveness of Hysterical Subjects.*—The hysterical affection, like *urofala*, is attributed by the generality of routine practitioners to debility, and of course, by them, subjected to a stimulating or tonic treatment. It is apparently dependant on a morbid irritability of muscles, and increased sensibility of the nervous system, which occur in robust as well as in debilitated subjects, and it is frequently attended with such an undue determination of blood to the head, or general plethora, as to render copious abstraction of blood necessary to prevent inflammation of the brain. In persons subject to hysterical affections, it is of great importance to keep the brain in a quiet state. The certain consequences of an overloaded state of the intestinal canal, being an increased afflux of blood to the brain, the necessity of obviating costiveness must appear clear. In nervous or hysterical subjects, a paroxysm being generally brought on by irritation in the stomach and intestines, an aperient medicine always proves very beneficial in keeping off visceral excitation.

The following composition we have found to act very beneficially, both as an aperient and an anti-irritant :

Take of Alkaline Extract of Jalap, 1 drachm;

Extract of Henbane, from 15 to 20 grains;

Oil of Caraway Seeds, 8 drops.

Mix, and divide into 18 pills; one, two, or three to be taken at bed time, or twice a day, according to their aperient effects.

If the patient be of a plethoric habit, copious purging and abstraction of blood will be necessary, and also the application of cold water to the forehead for ten or fifteen minutes every morning or twice a day, by means of a napkin, or to the head if the scalp be thinly covered with hair.

If the patient be in a debilitated state, and the digestive organs do not properly perform their office, a stomachic medicine will be necessary; and, as flatulence alone, by distending the intestines and passing from the stomach into the gullet, is a very common exciting cause of a fit, a powerful carminative should likewise be employed to prevent accumulation of gas in any part of the alimentary canal, as the following composition :

Take of the Compound Galbanum Pill,

Extract of Cascarilla, of each half a drachm;

Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, 1 scruple;

Aromatic Pill,\* 1 drachm.

\* The composition of this pill is given in page 86.

Mix, and divide into 30 pills ; two or three to be taken twice a day, with a glass of water.

If the patient should object to this form of medicine, or if pills should excite spasms in the gullet, in consequence of the mechanical irritation, a common effect in hysterical subjects, two or three tea-spoonsful of the following drops may be taken two or three times a day, in a wine-glass of water.

Take of Aromatic Tincture of Quinine, 2 ounces ;

Liquor of Potass, 3 drachms ;

Fœtid Spirit of Ammonia, 4 drachms.—Mix.

The morning or night dose of this mixture may be taken with one, two, three, or four table-spoonsful of the following decoction of aloes, so as to produce one or two copious alvine evacuations daily :

Take of Spanish Juice, half an ounce ;

Subcarbonate of Potass, half a drachm ;

Socotrine Aloes, (powdered) 2 scruples ;

Myrrh (powdered),

Hay Saffron, of each half a drachm ;

Water, 1 pint.\*

To be gently boiled, till reduced to three quarters of a pint, and then the liquor to be strained through fine linen for use.

Dr. Uwins recommends the following aperient stomachic draught to be taken once or twice a day :

Take of the Compound Decoction of Aloes of the London Pharmacopœia, half an ounce.

Infusion of Cascarilla, an ounce and a half.—Mix.

This composition is not sufficiently carminative.

When hysterical fits are occasioned by painful menstruation, the alkaline tincture of colchicum, twice or thrice a day, with an aromatic aperient and camphorated julep, according to the state of the bowels, is an excellent remedy, as the following composition :

Take of Alkaline Tincture of Colchicum Seeds, from 2 to 4 scruples ;

Fœtid Spirit of Ammonia, 40 drops ;

Compound Decoction of Aloes, 1 ounce ;

Or Camphorated Julep, an ounce and a half.—Mix.

If the menstrual secretion be excessive, the decoction of aloes should be omitted, and six drops of the compound spirit of sulphuric ether substituted for the fœtid spirit of ammonia. If the bowels should be constipated, the following draught may be administered :

Take of Infusion of Roses, 1 ounce ;

Sulphate of Magnesia, 3 drachms ;

Compound Tincture of Senna, 3 drachms.—Mix.

If the patient be of a languid habit, the skin pale, and the extremities cold, an ounce of the alkaline tincture of iron may be added to the stomachic drops, and the dose increased to three tea-spoonsful two or three times a day.

If the menstrual secretion be suppressed or retained, the treatment recommended for retention of the menses, page 10, will be necessary.

The popular practice of throwing cold water over the head, very fre-

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\* This decoction is sold under the name of *Beaume de Vie*.

quently terminates a fit; but that of forcing open the hands and violently smacking the palms, and also of applying volatile salts or aromatic vinegar to the nostrils, tends to prolong the paroxysm.

To the above treatment the shower bath two or three times a day, or sea bathing, will prove a powerful auxiliary. Dr. Hamilton, in his work, entitled "Observations on the Utility and Administration of Purgative Medicine in several Diseases," has introduced a few cases of hysterical affections, in which the free exhibition of an opening medicine, without any auxiliary, succeeded in restoring the patients to health. From those cases we have selected the following to illustrate the advantage of the purgative treatment of this malady.

"*Royal Infirmary, 16th March, 1825.*

"Jean Lawrie, aged 17, is subject to violent involuntary and irregular motions of the trunk and extremities, which generally last from five to ten minutes, and sometimes return several times successively, without any apparent cause. Complains of severe headache, during intervals, and flying pains in her loins, breast, and extremities. Pulse 104 and weak, face flushed, skin hot, alternating with a sense of cold, belly rather bound: the uterine secretion, which had been suppressed for upwards of four months, had returned about eight days.

"Was seized yesterday, while walking, with pains in the breast and back, faintness, and difficulty of respiration. These continued for about half an hour and were succeeded by a fit, as above described. Has been subject to headach, giddiness, and stomach complaints for about three years. A bolus of jalap was administered, and directions given for the exhibition of the common purging clyster if it did not operate.

"17th March.—One costive, but, in other respects, natural stool; tongue clean, pulse calm, headach continues, flushings of face, three attacks of spasmodic affection, as described, but in a slight degree, since admission; has passed an easy night.

"Two pills of aloes and colocynth were ordered to be given every fourth hour, till they operated on the bowels.

"18th.—Twelve pills taken, no stools procured, headach is relieved, one fit of short duration.

"Ordered a purging clyster to be administered, and a bolus of jalap and calomel to be given the following morning.

"19th.—Several copious dark and fetid stools after the injection, none since the bolus of the morning, headach is relieved, no return of paroxysm.

"Ordered the clyster to be repeated.

"20th.—Two slight fits; several stools. The bolus of jalap; &c. to be repeated.

"21st.—No recurrence of fits, pain under the sternum, increased by the recumbent posture, continues; headach gone, the bowels open, pulse calm.

"Ordered a blister to be applied over the breast bone.

"23d.—Blister has risen well, and pain relieved; no stools, no recurrence of fits.

"Ordered the bolus of jalap, &c. to be repeated.

" 25th.—The bowels have been well opened, and the patient free from complaint.

" Ordered one or two pills of aloes and gamboge to be taken occasionally at bed time.

" Dismissed cured."

**Treatment of Costiveness of Paralytic Subjects.**—Cullen defines palsy to be a partial impairment of the voluntary motions, often accompanied with sleep or drowsiness. In paralytic parts it does not appear that the irritability (a property residing in muscles) is diminished, the patient only losing the power of exercising the mind on them, in consequence of the nerves being paralysed, which connect them with the sensorium; for when brought into action by the stimulus of the electric or galvanic fluid, or by a mechanical irritant, after removing the integuments, they exhibit the same degree of contractile power as the corresponding muscles of the healthy limb.

Four primary paralytic diseases are noticed by authors: viz.—

1st.—*Partial Palsy* (confined to certain nerves).

2nd.—*Hemiplegic* ditto (of one side of the body). Of this species there are two varieties. First, in plethoric habits—a sequel of apoplexy; secondly, in leucophlegmatic habits, from effusion of serum within the cavity of the skull.

3rd.—*Paraplegic Palsy*—(of the lower extremities).

4th.—*Palsy from poison*—externally or internally used.

Partial palsy is produced by some local cause, as a tumour compressing a nerve or a branch of it, or by some morbid change in its structure. When it is the consequence of mechanical pressure, it is obvious that little benefit can arise from application to the nerve, or from internal remedies, till the cause is removed. When the nerve is diseased, all that art can do is, to improve the general health, and to stimulate the benumbed nerve by shampooing or the electric fluid. The fact, that the nerves of the upper extremities often becoming paralysed during the dry belly-ache, and continuing in that state for many months, and sometimes years, after the removal of the internal disease, strongly points out the necessity of attending to the state of the intestinal canal (with which a most important part of the nervous system is very closely connected, viz. ganglions) in all cases of palsy, and, indeed, from these circumstances in all nervous affections. When palsy is the sequel of apoplexy, or occasioned by over-distension of the sinuses or blood-vessels of the brain, it is of great importance to guard against every thing that is likely to compress the vessels of the belly, as tight waistbands, bandages, &c. and to promote the circulation in the viscera by stimulating purgatives. But we are not to depend even on powerful purgative medicines to unload the sanguiferous system in cases of plethora, for frequent copious alvine evacuations seem to have very little, if any effect on *general* plethora. Abstraction of blood will therefore be necessary in case of general plenitude, and indeed in congestion of the vessels of the brain, in a case of palsy from apoplexy; after which a warm aperient medicine, by preventing distension of the bowels by the refuse of the chyme, feces, or flatus, and promoting the circulation of the blood in them, will prevent a recurrence of apoplexy. Some practitioners condemn the use of an aromatic or stimulating

purgative, under the idea that they increase the determination of blood to the head; but the fact is, by increasing the circulation in the bowels they produce a derivation in favour of the head, whilst the cooling aperient salts, as the Epsom or Glauber's salt, and the saline aperient waters of Cheltenham, by diminishing the circulation in the bowels, occasion an increased afflux of blood to the head, and apoplexy is a common consequence of the use of such medicines. *Spirituos* stimulants are unquestionably improper.

The directions we have already given for regulating the bowels in cases of costiveness of people predisposed to apoplexy (page 41), are applicable to palsy, from compression of the brain. Dry friction, the warm vapour-bath,\* dry cupping, shampooing, the irritation of nettles, the liquor of ammonia, and cajeput opodeldoc, are good topical applications; but electricity, galvanism, and the warm bath, so frequently recommended to stimulate the paralysed nerves, are often injurious and extremely hazardous, in consequence of increasing the determination of blood to the head. We have known fatal apoplexy to immediately follow these remedies.

In cases of palsy of the lower extremities, it is assuredly of great importance to keep up a regular state of the bowels by a stimulating aperient; but as the disease is generally occasioned by some affection of the spinal column, or marrow, a local treatment will be necessary, as a perpetual blister, seton, friction, and stimulating embrocations; galvanism, shampooing, and electricity have also been found very beneficial when there is not a determination of blood to the brain.

When palsy is produced by the action of a poison, as lead, &c. or by the dry belly-ache, to which painters and labourers in lead mines are very liable, the daily use of an aromatic aperient will be necessary, as the aromatic pill (noticed page 86), to which, in case of obstinate costiveness, the compound colocynth pill should be added.—See *Devonshire Cold*, page 45.

In this species of palsy, mercurial friction (as the liniment of mercury of the London Pharmacopœia), galvanism, and electricity are important remedies. We must do Mr. Mahomed, of Brighton, the justice to say, that we have witnessed more extraordinary and speedy cures from his system of shampooing than any other topical treatment. This gentleman, by a long practice in such cases, is so convinced of the necessity of maintaining a regular state of the bowels, and of sometimes emptying them by a brisk cathartic, that he never fails to give directions for these purposes.

In our first series we have noticed the good effects of the vomic but in cases of palsy. This article is a powerful poison, and probably has had a beneficial influence in bringing paralysed nerves into action, by exciting a disposition in the system to convulsive action, and rather occasioning slight convulsions; for it has been observed, that

\* The pressure of the water, during immersion in a warm bath, on the trunk of the body, together with the action of heat on the heart and arteries, certainly occasions a preternatural afflux of blood to the brain; whereas, by the vapour bath, the circulation is increased in the skin and extremities, in consequence of the body being surrounded by rarefied air.

when such effects are not produced by it, the paralytic affection is rather increased than otherwise.

If the digestive organs should require invigorating, the aromatic tincture of quinine (see page 57) may be taken; and if the bowels should be very sluggish, the stimulating lavement, recommended in page 9, for costiveness from debility, may be employed. As an occasional stimulating stomachic, or nervous medicine, we may notice the volatile tincture of lupulin, volatile tincture of bark, and aromatic tincture of quinine.

It is of importance to distinguish palsy of a part of the body arising from slight effusion of blood in some portion of the brain, from the species termed partial palsy, the consequence of compression of the trunk or branch of a nerve, or from morbid structure; as some of the remedies applicable to the latter (as electricity, galvanism, &c.) might prove highly injurious in the former, by occasioning an undue determination of blood to the head. Dissection has satisfactorily proved, that slight effusions of blood in various parts of the brain, have been known to paralyse one leg, or one arm, the nerves of the tongue, or of one half of the face, without affecting any other part of the nervous system. Some practitioners suppose that, when there is *considerable* and *continued* palsy, there must necessarily exist some pressure or organic disease of the brain. That the cause frequently exists in the brain, there is no doubt; but "the number of cases," says Mr. Abernethy, "in which the paralytic affection is *merely nervous*, and *independent* of visible disease, is, in my opinion, very considerable." The instances which have been related warrant this conclusion, and shew such cases to be more frequent than is generally supposed. When there is organic disease of the brain, the case is very hopeless; and probably no considerable alleviation of the symptoms will take place, by attention to the state of the digestive organs. In dubious cases,—and such, on the first examination of them, the majority of these instances will probably be,—it seems right to try the effect of correcting disorder of the digestive organs, with a view to alleviate nervous irritation, before we proceed to those severer methods, which the belief of the existence of organic or vascular disease in the brain would induce us to institute. For if blood-letting and counter-irritation be employed, in order to diminish vascular action; or if mercury be used to some extent, in order to induce the absorption of deposited substance; these measures must aggravate that disorder of the general health, upon which, in many instances, the nervous affection depends.

After noticing the great advantage paralytic patients have derived from a chylopoietic treatment, Mr. Abernethy observes—"It is right, however, to mention, that in some cases to which I have attended, I have been foiled in my endeavours to correct, by the simple measures which I have related in the introductory remarks, the disorders of the digestive organs; *probably because their derangement depended on some established disease of the brain.*

"In other cases, when the functions of the digestive organs had been partially restored, the nervous and muscular affections were mitigated, but not cured. I have also met with one instance, in which the bowels became moderately correct in their functions, without any

evident amendment in the state of the limbs ; and I have known two instances of persons, who were suddenly seized with paralysis of the lower extremities, apparently dependant on general nervous disorder, in which the digestive organs scarcely seemed affected."

*Treatment of Costiveness of Erysipelatous Subjects.*—Every practitioner of experience and observation, we think, will admit that there is such a state of body as may be termed *erysipelatous*; or system, from some condition of the blood, or nerves, so predisposed to erysipelatous inflammation, that the slightest injury or irritation will produce considerable degree of erysipelatous or erythematous inflammation—as the puncture of a leech, the scratch of a pin—and in which a blister, slight excoriation, or even a stimulating plaster, will excite considerable and extensive inflammation. This state of system is attributed, by some writers, to a preternatural saline state of the blood ; and, from the circumstances of the serum of the blood, the urine, the tears, the discharge from the vesicles, and even the mucus from the internal membrane of the windpipe, being highly charged with saline particles, this theory is probably correct.

In such habits, it is of great consequence to guard against costiveness, in order to prevent local mischief ; as affections in the lungs, brain, skin, and intestines, to which such subjects are very liable.

The tar, or pitch, being certainly a powerful corrector of the erysipelatous habit, it may be given in conjunction with an aperient, as the following composition :—

Take of the Purified Pitch (Stockholm), half a drachm ;

Alcaline Extract of Jalap, one drachm.

Mix well together, and divide into twenty pills ; one, two, or three of which may be taken every night or morning, with a tea-cupful of the decoction of marshmallow-root, so as to produce one copious alvine evacuation daily. The subcarbonate of ammonia, with the Peruvian bark, in the following proportions, has also manifested something like a specific corrector of this habit :—

Take of Subcarbonate of Ammonia, from 2 to 4 scruples ;

Infusion of Peruvian Bark, 8 ounces.—Mix.

The dose of this mixture is from two to three table-spoonsful, three times a day. During the use of this mixture, it is a common practice to administer four grains of blue pill with two grains of the precipitated sulphuret of antimony every night at bed-time, for about one week. The bowels should be kept in a regular state by the pills of alcaline extract of jalap and pitch.\*

The late Thomas Cam, Esq. of Hereford, was partial to a solution of the oxymuriate of mercury in antimonial wine, in cases of chronic erysipelatous affections, or for correcting the erysipelatous habit, in the following proportions :—

Take of Oxymuriate of mercury, 6 grains ;

Antimonial Wine, 1 ounce.—Mix.

The dose of this composition is from fifteen to twenty drops, in a

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\* Pitch, and the terebinthinate medicines taken internally, appear to be powerful correctors of the erysipelatous habit, or what is vulgarly termed land scurvy. The tar-water is a very old remedy for erysipelas, but the pitch is more efficacious ; one pill of it being equal to a gallon of the water.

wine-glassful of the decoction of the inner rind of elm bark, or a decoction of marshmallow root.

When the edges of the eye-lids are inflamed (a complaint to which erysipelatous subjects are very liable), a little of the following ointment, put into the inner corners of the eyes, and rubbed over the eye-lashes at bed-time, generally succeeds in curing it in a few days.

Take of Spermaceti Ointment, half an ounce;

Prepared Calomel, half a drachm;

Flowers of Zinc, 10 grains.—Mix.

An erysipelatous affection of the lower part of the rectum, and of the external skin, frequently mistaken for piles, we have noticed in p. 41.

*Management of the Bowels of People subject to Chronic or Habitual Cough.*—Habitual or chronic cough, in consequence of the fickleness of the climate, is a very common complaint in this country. It is dependant on an irritable condition of the membrane of the windpipe and its ramifications (the bronchiæ), which renders it susceptible of such changes in the atmosphere that check the secretion of the skin, or stimulate the membrane during respiration. This cough is termed, by Dr. Buxton and others, "winter cough;" but it is not only excited by a *cold*, but also by a *warm* air; and those who are subject to it, often suffer more from it during the warmest days in summer, than the coldest in winter; and it very frequently recurs when the air flows from the east, north-east, or south-east, even when its temperature is between the two unfriendly degrees. The cough, on its commencement, is generally dry, and not unfrequently attended with a sense of oppression, or spasmodic stricture about the upper part of the windpipe, resembling asthma; particularly when the membrane of the cavity of the larynx is in a state of inflammatory excitement. The irritated membrane, in a day or two, secretes a considerable quantity of mucus, which, on being expectorated, affords considerable relief; after which, the paroxysm of coughing and pain are only in proportion to the quantity and tenacity of mucus, i. e. as soon as the windpipe and its ramifications are cleared, the paroxysm ceases, and the respiration becomes comparatively easy.

The object of practice in this species of cough, is clearly to reduce the irritation of the internal lining of the windpipe, &c. and to keep it in a quiet state, so as to be unsusceptible of the action of unfriendly vicissitudes in the air. To those who are aware of the effects of constipation, viz. undue determination of blood to the head, distension of blood-vessels of the chest, &c. the importance of keeping up the peristaltic motion of the intestinal canal must be obvious. Those who are subject to this cough, are well satisfied of the advantage of an aperient medicine occasionally, to relieve the bowels (i. e. when the vessels of the lungs or brain are evidently overloaded), and regularly every day, in smaller doses, to obviate costiveness; generally finding confined bowels to precede a recurrence of the complaint.

Although in general an aperient medicine, by promoting the circulation of blood in the viscera of the belly, and in the lower extremities, and occasioning a determination to them of nervous fluid, will succeed in quieting the membrane and removing congestion of

the blood-vessels of the lungs, so as to prevent a recurrence of cough, it is good practice to add to it such articles that directly allay irritation of the membrane, and occasion a healthy or inirritating secretion of the membrane; as the following composition:—

Take of Alcaline Extract of Jalap, half a drachm;

Extract of Hedge Hyssop\*, one scruple;

Gum Ammoniac, half a drachm.—Mix.

Two or three to be taken every night at bed-time, or two twice a day, so as to produce one or two alvine evacuations daily. If the skin should be hot and dry, or if it should not properly perform its office (perspiration), five or eight grains of ipecacuan powder may be added to the above mass.

For the purpose of emptying the intestinal canal, when the state of head or chest renders it necessary, two or three of the following pills may be taken:—

Take of Alcaline Extract of Jalap, one drachm;

Compound Extract of Colocynth, half a drachm.

Mix and divide into twenty pills.

As auxiliaries to this treatment, we may particularly notice the application of a stimulating plaster over the breast-bone (as the euphorbium, or camphorated Burgundy pitch), flannel next the skin, the chamois leather waistcoat† over the shirt, and the occasional use of the warm vapour-bath when the skin is inactive.

When the system of blood-vessels is in a state of plenitude, or when coughing produces giddiness, confusion of mind, or pain in the head, abstraction of blood from a vein of an arm will be proper; and, in case of pain in the chest, it will be prudent to apply a blister between the shoulders, or over the seat of pain. When a person who has been subject to this species of cough many years, has arrived to the age of fifty, such changes often take place in the substance of the lungs (as formation of peculiar small tubercles of an indolent nature, or ossifications of blood-vessels) which tend to impede the circulation of the blood through them. The distension or congestion of blood-vessels, which ensues, gives the patient the idea that the air-vessels are clogged by phlegm, and that they should experience considerable relief if they could freely expectorate. In such cases, an emetic generally affords considerable relief, by bringing the diaphragm, and other muscles concerned in conveying air from the lungs, so violently into action, as to compress the lungs and mechanically to force the blood through the vessels, and convey the mucus that may be lodged in the small air-vessels into the bronchia, or the windpipe, when it is easily expectorated. For this purpose, the following draught (emetic) may be administered:—

Take of Ipecacuan Powder, one scruple,

Vinegar of Squills, one drachm,

Water, one ounce — Mix.

\* This extract, in the dose of four grains, not only more effectually allays irritation in the windpipe than any other anti-irritant, but has the important advantage of not checking the aperient effects of the extract of jalap, and, unlike other quieting medicines, promotes expectoration.

† Made by Baker and Co. 24, Bedford Street, Covent Garden.

The following mixture, in the dose of two or three table-spoonsful two or three times a day, we have found very beneficial in this stage of habitual cough.

Take of Gum Ammoniac Emulsion, six ounces,

Tincture of Lupulin, three drachms,

Tincture of Squills, three drachms,

Spirit of Sal Volatile, three drachms,

Paregoric Elixir, four drachms.—Mix.

If the patient be troubled with symptoms of indigestion, particularly flatulence and loss of appetite, the emulsion of Gum Ammoniac may be made with an infusion of Camomile flowers or horehound. The free inhalation of the vapour of boiling tar is often very beneficial when the vessels of the lungs are overloaded from debility, and when there is a deficiency of expectoration. It not only removes congestion of blood vessels, by stimulating the pulmonary artery, &c., but increases the secretion of mucua from the membrane of the windpipe, and facilitates expectoration. That it may produce these effects, a deep inspiration should be made with it, in order to expose as much of the internal surface of the air vessels and cells to its action, as the patient is capable of doing. Another advantage arising from this remedy is, that it allays the irritation attendant on superficial ulceration either in the cavity of the lungs or membrane of the windpipe, which very often takes place during the progress of the cough, and is a common cause of its severity and continuance.\* During this stage it is of very great importance not only to obviate costiveness, but to keep up the secretion of the kidneys, in order to carry off the redundancy of serum in the blood, which would otherwise be effused in the cavity of the chest, belly, or cellular substance of the extremities, and hasten the last stage.

With the view of obviating costiveness, one, two, or three of the following pills may be taken once or twice a day, so as to produce one fecal evacuation daily.

Take of Alkaline Extract of Jalap, one drachm,

Oil of Juniper Berries, eight drops,

Rhubarb Powder, sufficient to form a mass. To

be divided into middle-sized pills.

If the kidneys, during the use of these remedies, should not per-

\* These ulcerations are frequently attended with such a degree and extent of irritation as to disturb the whole system, and keep up an irritative fever, with hectic symptoms; and we suspect that the cases of pulmonary consumption which have been published as cured by tar vapour and the terebinthinate balsams, were of this kind. Pus in the mucus, expectorated during membranous ulceration, may, on microscopical examination, be detected (and it is also frequently more or less streaked and mixed with blood, as in pulmonary consumption) from dead or decomposing tubercles, and from small scrofulous suppurations in the substance of the lungs; but it always has a sweetish or saltish taste: whilst, in the tubercular species, it has a putrid taste and smell, and in the scrofulous it is generally tasteless and inodorous.

form their office, the following mixture may be substituted for that of the Gum Ammoniac emulsion.

Take of Infusion of Buchu Leaves, six ounces,  
Oxymel of Squills, six drachms,  
Sweet Spirit of Nitre, three drachms,  
Paregoric Elixir, four drachms.—Mix.

If the stomach be irritable, the appetite bad, or the medicine should excite nausea, a drachm of Gum Ammoniac and half a drachm of the dilute Sulphuric acid, may be substituted for the Oxymel of Squills.

It not unfrequently happens that in persons subject to this species of cough, nearly the whole of the membranes of the body are, like that of the windpipe, &c. preternaturally irritable. We have known the cough to alternate with irritation in the internal membrane of the urethra, bladder and rectum, and for the smallest dose of ipecacuan, calomel, or squills, to excite vomiting and to disturb the bowels; and it is not uncommon to meet with habitual cough attended with purging. In such cases it would be highly improper to employ ipecacuan, squills, or any remedy that is likely to disorder the stomach or bowels, because they do not produce a derivation in favour of the affection of the lungs, but on the contrary aggravate it. In such constitutions we have found the following mixture, in the dose of a small wine-glassful three or four times a day, to prove very beneficial in allaying irritation in the windpipe, and in quieting the bowels.

Take of Bitter Almond Emulsion, six ounces,  
Compound Tragacanth Powder, three drachms,  
Prepared Chalk, one drachm,  
Gum Ammoniac, two scruples,  
Liquor of Subcarbonate of Potass, one drachm,  
Extract of Lettuce, ten grains,  
Simple Syrup, half an ounce.—Mix.

In this stage of the disease, it is common for such an afflux of blood to the brain to take place during coughing, as to occasion giddiness, head-ach, and a general sense of lassitude. In such cases, although the legs are affected with edematous swelling, the pulse weak and the body apparently in a debilitated state, it is often necessary to take a few ounces of blood from a vein, in order to prevent mischief in the brain; and after such abstraction, it is very common for the patient to experience a considerable accession of strength, an abatement of cough, freedom of breathing, and facility of expectoration, principally from relieving the brain (the vital spring of the body) from the pressure of over-distended vessels. The propriety of bleeding, when the general health has so far given way to the disease, that the circulation in the extremities has become very languid, and the cellular substance loaded with serum, is perhaps one of the nicest points to determine that can occur in the practice of medicine; for if effusion of serum has taken place, either into the cellular substance of the lungs, the pericardium, or the cavity of the chest, the loss of blood might in a few hours terminate life.

As the patient advances in life, the heart often becomes so

oppressed, and the blood vessels of the lungs, &c. so loaded, as to occasion an effusion of serum either in the duplicatures of the pleura, the pericardium, or cellular substance of the lungs, in consequence of which the vital powers are so depressed, that the cellular substance of the lower extremities, the cavity of the belly, and, during an horizontal position, even the cellular substance of the face, soon become loaded with serum. When this state of system takes place, practitioners are apt to prognosticate speedy dissolution; and if foxglove, elaterium, or an anodyne be administered, he will gain credit by his prognostication. Hopeless as the case may appear to be, the life of the patient may, with attention to the whole machine, be prolonged a few years. We lately met with a case of habitual cough in this stage. The cellular substance of the lower extremities and the cavities of the belly and chest were so loaded with serum, that the patient had been obliged to sit up in a large chair for about a fortnight. Whenever he attempted to lie down, a sense of suffocation and giddiness came on, that he was immediately obliged to resume his situation on the chair. We soon found that the state of system was not altogether the consequence of the progress of the disease, but in a great measure produced by an advertised infallible remedy for cough, which we found contained opium, and apparently foxglove. The specific had had the promised effect of quieting the cough, and diminishing the secretion of phlegm, and had it been continued two days longer would no doubt have completely quieted the whole machine. By the use of a mixture of expectorants, tonics and diuretics, similar to the mixture of buchu leaves, page 119, and attention to his bowels and a nutritious article of diet, he was restored to a state of comparative health.

When the powers of the body are reduced by the disease to the state we have above described, if the substance of the lungs have not sustained serious organic mischief, the pulmonary artery and other blood vessels not considerably ossified, the stomach capable of digesting a little light food, and especially if the complaint has not been judiciously treated, the life of the patient may not only be rendered much more tolerable, but prolonged some years, by invigorating the digestive organs, and by diminishing the quantity of serum which may be effused in different parts of the body; and which, in the chest and head, acts as weights on the springs of life. With these views, two table-spoonsful of the following mixture may be taken, three or four times a day:

Take of Alcaline Liquor of Iron, three drachms,

Spirit of Sal. Volatile, three drachms;

Tincture of Squills, three drachms,

Infusion of Juniper Berries, or of Buchu Leaves, six ounces,

Tincture of Lepoph, half an ounce.—Mix.

If the bowels should be confined, the following pills may be administered.

Take of Alcaline Extract of Jalap, eight grains;

Compound Pill of Guaiac Gum with Aloes, five grains,

Prepared Calomel, two grains.—Mix, and divide into three pills.

After the due operation of these pills, and after taking the mixture three or four days, a small blister may be applied to the inside of each leg, about four inches above the ankle, and kept open by dressing them with cabbage leaves, previously softened by immersion in boiling water. With the view of promoting expectoration, which in this stage is always very difficult, the vapour of tar, or of a mixture of resinous gums, as the benzoin, tolu, and frankincense, may be inhaled two or three times a day, as directed, page 118. A stimulating gargle, as the infusion of horse-radish with a little vinegar or warm port wine, used four or five times a day, has proved very beneficial in cases of laborious or difficult expectoration from debility, probably by stimulating branches of the eighth pair of nerves. Small meals of nutritious articles, with mild condiments, should be adopted, as the inside of boiled or roasted beef or mutton (tender), with the red gravy, roasted or boiled fowls, light bread puddings, arrow root or tapioca jelly, ass's milk, cocoa, chocolate, &c. Rich soups or strong animal jellies, cows' milk, salted meat, &c. should be avoided on account of not being easy of digestion. As a common beverage, barley-water acidulated with lemon-juice is the best, to which a little British gin may be added, if the stomach be oppressed or distended by flatulence. If an effusion of serum has evidently taken place in some part within the chest, or the belly, or to a considerable extent in the cellular substance of the lungs, attended with a paucity of urine, and the system is in a languid state, the common beverage may consist of British gin,\* diluted with a decoction of marshmallow root or barley water.

The daily inhalation of about two gallons of oxygen gas is a powerful auxiliary to the medical treatment in every stage of chronic or winter cough, not only by promoting expectoration, but the natural chemical processes which are kept up in the lungs by respi-

\* The gin made in England is certainly preferable as a diuretic to that imported from Holland, on account of containing a greater proportion of the essential oil of juniper berries. The latter indeed is often entirely free from it, being flavoured only with the empyreuma it receives from the ashes employed to rectify the spirit. The gin of this country differs very much in its diuretic property, some juniper berries being more productive of essential oil than others; and some distillers make use of other aromatics, as coriander seeds, &c. with a small proportion of juniper berries. The gin made by Mr. Wollaston, of Great Castle Street, Oxford Market, being pure and properly impregnated with the essential oil of the juniper berries, we have recommended our patients, whose cases require this cordial diuretic, to obtain it at that manufactory.

+ If the patient has not the means of inhaling this gas by a gasometer, it may be disengaged near the face or nostrils of the patient, so as to be inhaled, by placing an iron retort filled with manganese in the fire, with a tube long enough to allow of its becoming cool before it escapes, or the end of it may be placed in cold water, so that the air may pass through it. The patient may lie or sit with his face over it, so as to breathe it as it escapes. The gas that escapes being diffused throughout the atmosphere of the room, will likewise prove beneficial.

ration, the principal of which is probably conveying carbon from the blood. Some writers recommend invalids affected with chronic cough, to keep the atmosphere of their chamber and sitting-room at a regular temperature of about 58 or 60 Farn. during the winter season ; and if the action of the warm air could be confined to the surface of the body, it would doubtless keep the inner membrane of the windpipe in a quiescent state ; but the inhalation of warm, and of course rarefied air, after the cough is established, we have found to aggravate it : and in those cases attended with irritative ulceration of the inner membrane of the windpipe, or a disposition to organic mischief in the substance of the lungs, it has uniformly proved injurious, in the numerous cases in which we have known it adopted. When the patient has gained sufficient strength to enable him to travel, he should lose no time in repairing to a place on the sea-coast, with a southern or western aspect, and which is sheltered by hills from the east or north air, as Brighton, Worthing, or Hastings. We have given a decided preference to Brighton, because the soil is dry, and the spring water pure. There is also, within half a mile of the town, a ferruginous spring, which in the far advanced stage of chronic cough, and the asthmatic cough of elderly people and consumption from tubercles, is a very valuable medicine. Here the invalid may take exercise, either once or twice a day, in a close or open chaise, according to the state of the weather, or the point of the wind. Some writers recommend the exercise of digging the ground, in cases of chronic affections of the lungs, on the supposition that pure air escapes from the turned soil ; but so far from a salutary gas being disengaged, nothing but a humid vapour escapes, which is more likely to prove injurious than otherwise ; and certainly the position of stooping, and the exertion of raising the soil (in which the lungs are much concerned), with the feet on the cold ground, is well calculated to aggravate the complaint ; and from the serious effects which we have known to follow this exercise, we have no doubt many thousands have been hurried to their graves by it. Some writers recommend riding on horseback as the most salutary exercise, in cases of chronic cough, and also of consumption of the lungs ; and such an high opinion did a late eminent physician entertain of the restorative powers of this exercise, in cases of diseased lungs, that he was in the habit of observing to his consumptive patients, that they could not do better than live on horseback. We have known many patients adopt this exercise, but we never knew one do it with impunity ; and it appears to us strange, that a physician acquainted with anatomy should recommend a person with diseased lungs to adopt an exercise, which would not only shake the affected organs, but expose the body more to a currency of air, than that of walking or riding in a vehicle. The exercise of swinging has been found, in some cases, beneficial, especially when it has excited nausea or vomiting, but in some instances it has proved injurious, by occasioning a determination of blood to the head.

During all the stages of habitual or chronic cough, it is of great importance to promote the circulation in the skin, and of course its

secretions, the sensible and insensible perspirations. With this view, the use of a vapour bath, before the legs become edematous, once a week, will be proper. It is also of greater importance to keep up a proper circulation in the lower extremities by friction with warm flannel, and by wearing, night and day, stockings of fleecy hosiery ; and if they do not succeed in keeping the feet warm, the chamois leather should be worn over them.

The determination of blood, and of nervous excitement, which is thus produced to the extremities, often proves a more powerful derivative in favour of the lungs, than the inflammation excited by blisters on the chest.\*

We have noticed in the preceding pages the habitual or chronic cough, which is dependant on morbid excitement, and sometimes irritative ulcerations of the inner membrane of the windpipe and its ramifications. There is a chronic cough, which is the consequence of inflammatory excitement, or superficial ulceration of the membrane of the cavity of the larynx ; the irritation, or even inflammation of either, often extends to the upper part of the membrane of the windpipe, and frequently to the soft palate, the upper part of the gullet, and even along the eustachian tube, occasioning a distressing acute tickling sensation at the top of the windpipe, attended with slight expectoration, hoarseness, pain on swallowing, shooting pains in the direction of the ears ; and sometimes the irritation is so extensive in the branches of the eighth pair of nerves, as to be attended with the symptoms of spasmodic asthma. When the inflammatory action is extended to the soft palate, or to the pharynx, the cause of the cough is discoverable on inspection. Sometimes it is attended with swelling of the integuments of the upper part of the windpipe, so as to be evident on external examination. This complaint often recurs during the winter season, and generally gives way to a sedative astringent gargle, and such medicines that promote the secretion of the intestines and skin, and allay general nervous irritation, which more or less attends it, as the following :

Take of Supersulphate of Alumine, 1 drachm ;

Honey of Roses, half an ounce ;

Infusion of the Flowers,

Or, Simple Infusion of Red Rose Leaves, 8 ounces ;

Extract of Henbane, 1 drachm.—Mix.

To be used as a gargle four or five times a day.

If ulceration has taken place about the epiglottis, the soft palate, or any part of the pharynx, the following may be substituted for the above :

Take of Infusion of the Bark of the White Fir, 8 ounces ;

Honey of Roses, 4 drachms ;

Opium, 20 grains.—Mix.

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\* The great advantage patients derive from bathing the feet in warm water after the cough is established, forcibly points out the importance of keeping the feet warm as a preventive of it.

Dissolve the opium in the infusion, and then add the honey of roses, and strain through fine gauze or linen for use.

As an anodyne and diaphoretic, one or two of the lettuce lozenges (noticed in our first series) may be taken every or every second hour. This composition (the inspissated white juice of the garden lettuce, ipecacuan, citric acid, liquorice extract, and tolu), in consequence of being dissolved gradually in the mouth and passing over the affected parts, acts more efficaciously than pills or mixtures of similar ingredients.

To keep the bowels in a regular state, and occasionally to empty them, one, two, or three of the pills, page 118, may be taken every or every other night, or occasionally, according to their effects. If the inflammation or irritation should run high or prove obstinate, a small blister should be applied to the upper part of the throat, over the projecting part, technically termed *pomum Adami*, or one applied behind each ear. If the inflammation or irritation should not be very troublesome, the application of a mixture of the strong liquor of ammonia (*liquor ammoniae puræ*) and olive oil, in equal quantities, by means of a little flannel, will probably produce a sufficient degree of irritation to produce the derivative or counterirritative effect. If the skin should be irritable, the proportion of the liquor of ammonia should be diminished, and, if in a contrary state, it should be increased so as to keep up a kind of mild inflammatory excitement, i. e. not amounting to active inflammation.

If the ulceration, or irritation, extends to the inner membrane of the windpipe, the vapour either of tar, of the decoction of hops, or of the weak impure pyroligneous acid, may be inhaled two or three times a day, taking care that it be not received in such a warm state as to increase irritation, or excite coughing.

There are other species of chronic cough, from different organic affections of the lungs (as ossification of arteries, adhesion of air-cells, producing a consolidated appearance like liver\*, &c.), and a great variety of organic diseases of the heart, the blood-vessels, and other parts within the chest which are apt to come into action or to be aggravated by atmospherical changes, that disturb the nervous system, or occasion internal congestion, by diminishing the secretion or circulation of the skin, which require a treatment similar to that we have recommended for simple chronic cough; except the inhalation of vapour. In some cases of organic diseases within the chest, which mechanically or sympathetically disorder the lungs, so as to occasion cough, mercury and a perpetual blister are necessary; but the organic diseases are so numerous, and their effects so various from situation, that it is almost impossible to notice all of them, and to point out a treatment applicable to them. The treatment we have suggested is applicable to ninety-nine cases out of a hundred of chronic cough which occur in general practice; but, in nervous temperaments especially, there are often peculiarities to contend with, which render very considerable alterations in the customary mode of treatment necessary. Many young physicians,

\* A learned editor of a medical periodical work, has termed this consolidated state of lungs, "conversion of the lungs into liver."!!

flushed with the theoretic knowledge of diseases they have obtained at an university, and with the academical honour of a doctor's degree, resolutely put their artillery into action, determined to subdue even peculiarities themselves; whilst the practitioner of experience and observation attends to peculiarities, and, instead of a furious direct attack on the disease, will assail it chiefly through the medium of the constitution, well knowing that every disease is modified by it. The young practitioner supposes that his diploma will sanction the boldest practice; and those who have been engaged in experiments on living brutes, consider a living subject of little more value than a dead one; but the man of experience, who has, of course, seen much of human nature, knows how to estimate human life; and as he advances in age, he looks more to a reward hereafter than either to accumulation of wealth or attainment of fame.

### DROPSY.

The observant Dr. Carter, of Canterbury, has published a case of dropsy of the belly and lower extremities; or what may be termed general dropsy, in which, he says "tonic medicines *alone* did' harm, and the state of the patient was such, that depletion and sedative medicines would have been still worse. The combination of the steel mixture and tincture of foxglove produced an unequivocal good effect, and this," says he, "is one out of *many* cases in which I have proved its value."

The case being short, we shall only take the liberty of divesting it of technicalities, and that cloak of ignorance, the Latin tongue, in copying it; a disguise, or decoration as some may regard it, which the medical reports of Dr. Carter certainly do not require.

John Hobday, a postboy, aged 18, was admitted an out-door patient of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, on the 12th of November, with dropsy of the belly, lower extremities, &c. The lad was very pale and weak. He had been affected, previously to the appearance of dropsy, with indigestion and constipation. He had lived very low. He was first ordered a pill, composed of three grains of calomel and five grains of gamboge, to be taken immediately, and a draught of the compound mixture of iron (an ounce and a half,) and tincture of foxglove (ten drops), to be taken every fifth hour.

On the 19th, the swelling was considerably diminished, and the quantity of urine increased. Bowels rather confined. Ordered twenty grains of the compound extract of bitter apple to be taken occasionally.

On the 26th, the dropsical symptoms having nearly disappeared, a mixture of Peruvian bark, cordial confection, and compound spirits of lavender was ordered to be taken three or four times a day, and a dose of the pill of iron, with myrrh, to be taken night and morning. The following week, the patient being manifestly worse, the draught of compound mixture of iron, with tincture of foxglove, was re-prescribed, which succeeded in completing his cure.

Had this patient been an out-patient of the Henley Dispensary, under the care of Bachelor Weddles, whose clinical remarks on

dropsy we noticed in our 110th number, would the result have been so creditable to the healing art? We suspect some of our medical readers will not agree with Dr. Carter in terming the mixture of iron and foxglove, a tonic and sedative combination. The saline preparations of iron are generally considered to be tonics; but we are disposed to think, that they do not strengthen debilitated subjects by a tonic effect on the stomach like the Peruvian bark, or any other astringent or bitter stomachic medicine, but by improving or correcting the state of the blood, on which the dropsical diathesis depends. They seem to have some specific effect on the leucophlegmatic or dropsically disposed habit, for on it they always act beneficially, apparently by increasing the quantity of the red particles of the blood. It has been supposed that these particles contain iron, in consequence of their being attracted, when dried, by the magnet; and although the presence of iron has not been detected by chemists, who have subjected them to a variety of experiments, it is probable, from the effect of a saline preparation of iron, that it does exist in them, in such combination that will not admit of detection by decomposition, or any other chemical examination. We attribute, therefore, the salutary effects of iron in cases of dropsy, to some peculiar chemical effects on the blood, or in correcting the dropsical habit; for given in cases of debility of stomach, when the constitution is not leucophlegmatic, or disposed to dropsy, it never evinces any thing like a tonic effect on the stomach, but often disorders it and the head.

With respect to foxglove being a sedative, it evidently allays irritation and irritability in cases of *irritative* fevers; and in the last stage of pulmonary consumption, when the hectic or irritative fever runs high, a small dose of half a grain of the powdered leaves, or twenty drops of the tincture, repeated every four or five hours, will diminish the action of the heart and arteries, and considerably quiet the system: and instances are not wanted of the dose of thirty drops of the tincture taken three times a day, having in the course of forty-eight hours terminated the lives of consumptive patients, whose disease of the lungs had apparently a month to run. In cases of dropsy the foxglove does not act as a sedative, for it neither diminishes the action of the heart or arteries, nor reduces the strength of the system. In our 103rd Number, we have published some interesting cases of dropsy, in which the powdered leaves were administered to the extent of a hundred grains in the course of twenty-four hours, by Dr. Davy, an eminent physician of Fort Pitt, with complete success; and instead of depressing the vital powers or manifesting any thing like a sedative operation, it evidently invigorated the body, and increased the action of the absorbent system. In cases of *irritative* fever it seems to act as a sedative, but in cases where the body is in an opposite condition, and the absorbent system in such a state of debility as to admit of accumulation of serum in the cavity of the belly, or in the cellular substance, it seems to act as a stimulus, increasing the action of the kidneys and of the absorbents.

Some physiologists have supposed, from the effects of foxglove in diminishing the power of the heart and arteries, and, at the same time, of increasing that of the absorbent system, that "the action of

the vessels employed in the circulation of the blood, and the energy of the absorbents, are, to a certain extent, antagonists ;" and Dr. Blackett, supposing that this was the case in dropsy, attended with increased action of the arterial system, employed bleeding to reduce the power of the arteries, in order to increase that of the absorbents. The effect of copious bleeding, in bringing the absorbent system into action, is well known to surgeons, who attribute it to an effort of the constitution, (the *vis conservatrix*), to supply the circulating fluid with serum ; and this is often so rapidly effected, that the pulse, a few hours after the loss of blood, becomes as much distended as it was at the time the operation of bleeding was performed ; and, on every future repetition, in cases that require it every ten or twenty-four hours, the quantity of serum is always found proportionably increased. The absorbents even of the mouth and throat are generally so powerfully brought into action after a copious loss of blood, that a patient immediately complains of a great sense of thirst, and accumulations of serum in the extremities have disappeared in a few hours. The latter is the effect of the first impulse given to the absorbent system ; for a few days after repeated bleedings, when the system feels the loss of blood, or the inflammatory action has subsided for which it was employed, it is very common for an effusion of serum to take place in the cellular substance of the legs. In cases of confirmed dropsy, there is very rarely an increased action of the arterial system ; and the blood, being overcharged with serum, the effect of foxglove, in promoting absorption, cannot be attributed to its reducing the power of the arteries, and thereby increasing that of the absorbents ; besides, as we have observed before on the effects of large doses of foxglove, as in the cases published by Dr. Davy, the action of the arterial system was increased by the remedy in proportion as the serum was absorbed. The diuretic effect of foxglove is probably secondary ; that is, in the consequence of its operation on the absorbent system, the blood is so overloaded with serum, that the kidneys are called into action to convey the superabundant quantity from the blood ; and, in all cases of dropsy, the paucity of urine is the consequence of diminished absorption, the serum lodging in the cellular substance, instead of being conveyed to the mass of blood for the purpose of passing off by the kidneys. Hence, tonic medicines, although they increase the power of the heart and arteries, will invigorate the absorbent vessels, and secondarily occasion an increased secretion of urine. The powdered leaves of foxglove applied externally to an ulcer, excite irritation, and the application of an infusion to the eyes occasions inflammation and pain ; and, in cases of inflammation or inflammatory excitement of the stomach or intestines, it uniformly acts as a stimulus, and not as a sedative. The gamboge and alsterium also increasing the action of the absorbed system, and occasioning very watery evacuations from the intestines ; are powerful auxiliaries to steel and foxglove in cases of dropsy. How foxglove operates in increasing the action of the absorbent system in one disease, and in allaying irritation of nerves, or in producing nervous debility in another disease, no medical writer, practical or theoretical, has attempted to explain. The physiology of the

absorbent system is involved in as great obscurity as that of the brain. A degree of pressure, capable of paralysing a nerve, or preventing the transmission of blood by an artery, will increase the action of absorbents; and hence, by continued pressure, even scirrhouss and bony tumours have been gradually removed by them. Again, when a limb of a healthy subject is deprived only of the pressure of the atmosphere, by placing it in an exhausted machine, the absorbents of it appear to be incapable of acting, and the cellular membrane, in the course of a few minutes, becomes loaded with serum. Indeed, it appears to us, that dropsy of the lower extremities is often the consequence of loss of tone or elasticity in the skin and cellular membrane, by which the absorbents lose the support (pressure) which is necessary to enable them to perform their office. Hence the legs of some patients in the last stage of pulmonary consumption become dropsical, whilst those of others, where the skin and cellular substance do not lose their elasticity, exhibit no such appearance. In all cases of dropsical swellings of the lower extremities, surgeons are well aware of the advantage of supporting the skin by the use of rollers; and so beneficially do they frequently operate, that the legs, although enormously swelled, are sometimes reduced in a few days to their natural size by a roller. Vomiting also increases the action of the absorbent vessels. We have known a large abscess containing at least a pint of matter disappear in a few hours during a vomiting and nausea, which continued that time. The late Mr. Pott, and the late Sir James Earle were partial to the exhibition of an emetic two or three times a week in cases of edematous swelling, and even in hydrocele. The electric fluid, applied in large sparks, has the effect of promoting the absorption of serum; but when it is applied in a regular stream from a point of wood (the aura), it seems to have the effect of weakening the absorbents, the accumulation increasing under its use.

Mercury also acts as a stimulus to the absorbent system, although it frequently decreases the action of the heart and arteries. Mercurial ointment well rubbed into the skin over a deep-seated tumour, even of a bone, has succeeded in the course of some weeks in dispersing it, although the absorbent of the skin had no direct connexion with those of the tumour, or although the mercury was not conveyed to the tumour. The effect of mercurial friction in such cases, the late Dr. Baillie attributed to the sympathy which he supposed to exist between the absorbent of the skin and those of the tumour, a sympathy which must be independent of direct nervous connexion.

Some Italian physicians, and our scientific correspondent Dr. De Sanctis, suppose that many external remedies are conveyed directly to a morbid part by some extra-vascular means which they do not pretend to explain; and there are many phenomena which corroborate this idea. Mercury and other medicines externally employed, may be conveyed to an internal disease through the medium of the circulation. On this important subject we intend to give an article in an early number.

#### DIABETES.

On the treatment of no disease have medical men differed more in opinion than in that of diabetes; some contending that it being a

disease of debility, the patient should take tonic medicines and adhere to a diet to animal food; others, that it being a disease of increased excitement, the only proper treatment is bleeding and sedatives, with a vegetable diet. Such opposite opinions respecting the treatment of a simple disease, must of course tend to increase the confidence of the public in the healing art, and prove highly consolatory to diabetic patients. The treatment recommended by Dr. Rollo, of Liverpool, viz. of confining the patient to animal food, that by copious and frequent abstraction of blood, and that by the free exhibition of opium with the view of allaying the morbid irritation of the kidneys, (a favourite practice of the late Dr. Baillie), we have noticed in some of our early numbers. A Dr. Sharkey states that he has met with two cases of diabetes, in which Dr. Rollo's mode of treatment completely failed, and in which an opposite one succeeded!! His chief remedy was the *phosphate of soda*, in the quantity of one or two drachms two or three times a day, so as to produce two or three alvine evacuations daily. The Doctor was induced to prescribe this remedy in consequence of having observed the urine of a diabetic patient to be considerably diminished in quantity, and more healthy in quality, after the exhibition of a purgative dose of this aperient salt. In one case the Doctor administered the super-acetate of lead (recommended in an early number of our work, as an auxiliary remedy in true diabetes), with opium and Peruvian bark, during which the phosphate of soda was administered, with a view of obviating costiveness. This treatment proved successful, and the phosphate alone (administered in the dose of about a drachm three times a day) having succeeded in another case, the Doctor attributes the cure to it!!

Dr. Miller, an eminent German physician, informs us that he has known the prussic acid administered in several cases of true diabetes with the most decided advantage. He generally prescribes it in the dose of one drop four times a day, in a wine-glassful of the decoction or infusion of the rhubarb root. He also employs the vapour bath, which, he contends, acts more powerfully in promoting the secretion of the skin than the warm bath. To obviate costiveness, he is in the habit of prescribing the phosphate of soda (one or two drachms every morning, according to the effects on the bowels), not on account of having observed any beneficial effect on the kidneys, or in correcting the quality of the secretion, but as a gentle and pleasant aperient. As "the prussic acid," says he, "operates very differently on different constitutions, I recommend it to be first given in the dose of one drop three times a day; and if it should not produce some sensible effect, as dizziness or nausea, to increase the dose about half a drop, till it evidently has some effect, either on the disease or on the stomach." As a surgeon observes, in speaking of mercury as a constitutional remedy, it must be given to "touch the system," so must the prussic acid be administered to produce a beneficial effect on a local disease, or constitutional disorder. The beneficial effects of the prussic acid, in a variety of local irritative affections, entitle it to a trial in diabetes; and we agree with our intelligent correspondent, Dr. Miller, that unless it

be given to an extent to produce some sensible effect on the stomach or constitution, it would be unreasonable to expect any beneficial influence from it on a local disorder or disease.

### INTERMITTENT FEVER.

In what may be termed the *specific* treatment of intermittent fever, physicians commence with the Peruvian bark. With the plodding or routine practitioner, the term ague, or intermittent fever, and Peruvian bark are so concatenated, that the name of the disease immediately leads to the use of the remedy; and with the use of such medicines the state of the bowels may indicate, he generally succeeds, sooner or later, in curing the disease. The physicians who proceed on philosophical principles prepare the system for the *specific* treatment, regulating the stomach and bowels and the sanguiferous system; and by employing derivative remedies, as a blister, when an internal organ is in a state of inflammatory excitement; and if visceral obstruction exist, they introduce a little mercury into the system, anteriorly to the exhibition of the Peruvian bark. The advantages of this preparatory treatment are, the disease is cured in a few days by much smaller doses of the Peruvian bark, the stage of convalescence is very short, and the patient, on his recovery, finds himself free from any unpleasant feelings in the stomach, or in any other viscus; whereas, when such preparatory treatment has not been adopted, the period of convalescence is often very long, and the patient, when he is pronounced well, or free from the disease, is often troubled with symptoms of indigestion, which are frequently followed by organic disease of the liver or spleen, the gradual progress of the affection of the viscus which existed at the time the remedy was first exhibited.

A great diversity of opinion exists among medical men of extensive experience in intermittent fevers, as to the dose in which the Peruvian bark should be administered, and also as to the intervals and stage of the disease. Dr. Ridgway has ascertained, by one of those accidents to which the public is indebted for numerous discoveries in the healing art, that the Peruvian bark, administered to the extent of an ounce or an ounce and half, cures the disease immediately, and that one dose is sometimes sufficient for this purpose. The Doctor having communicated to Dr. Macleod the result of the accidental exhibition of this remedy, we shall copy his statement.

"I remember, in the year 1809, when I was with the second battalion of the Rifle Brigade at Hythe, in Kent, which had lately returned from the expedition to the Scheldt, and was, to a man, sick of remittent and intermittent fever, so that the whole barrack was converted into an hospital; I was then the only medical officer present, and was forced to trust much to an experienced, although not very intelligent, hospital orderly man\*. One day, as this man attended me round the regimental hospital, I directed him to give a

\* A soldier attached to the regimental hospital, to attend on the sick, and administer to them food and medicine.

soldier, who was in expectation of a paroxysm of intermittent fever, an ounce or an ounce and a half of powdered bark, (I forget which); in the usual manner, before the fit came on. The next day the man appeared blithe and lively. 'Well,' said I to the attendant, 'did this man take his bark yesterday?' 'Yes, Sir, he took it *about half an hour* before the fit came on.'—'What! all at once?' 'Yes, sir: you ordered it to be taken before the fit, and I gave it him.'—'So he drank it all at once?' 'Yes, Sir.'—'And did it make him sick?' 'No, Sir; not at all.'—'And had he any fit afterwards?' 'No, Sir; he had no fit at all.'—'And you feel quite well to-day?' 'Yes, Sir;' said the soldier.—This was not lost on me. I immediately saw the advantage of being enabled to exhibit the medicine with a certainty and decision I had not before known; and opportunities in abundance soon presented themselves, to enable me to assure myself that it might be administered in this manner with the utmost confidence."

Since that period, the Doctor says, he has never thought of giving the Peruvian bark in *divided* doses, to check the paroxysm of an intermittent; but where he has thought it proper to use this medicine, he has uniformly administered it in *one* full dose, as nearly as possible to the approaching paroxysm; and, he says, he does not remember an instance of its having been rejected by the stomach, and he believes it will not be so liable to this accident as in the shape of *divided* doses, although taken with regularity. He has frequently directed the powder to be taken in the dose of an ounce and a half, but he believes an ounce is a sufficient quantity in the greatest number of instances to avert the paroxysm, and when this has been effected, he has reduced the quantity to half an ounce, which he has directed to be continued on the approach of a paroxysm, and once a day till every fear of a return has vanished. "Yet," says he, "I am sure I was not in the habit of directing the same quantity to be given the second time, as at first. And, when I felt assured that the paroxysm had been really averted, passed to the diminished proportion.

"The powder of bark will mix readily with warm water, and it may afterwards be brought down by cold water to a tepid temperature, when it will be most agreeably taken. A small quantity of water is to be preferred, so as merely to make it potable; and the mouth may be afterwards rinsed out with tepid water, and a little swallowed."

The Doctor concludes his communication with the following remarks:

"When I was at Madrid in 1812, I was myself affected with intermittent fever, and perfectly succeeded in checking it by the bark employed in this manner; and again in the spring of 1813, when on the frontiers of Portugal.

"It may be worthy of remark, that once, when I had kept off the paroxysm for several periods by the use of the bark in half-ounce doses, the supply of this medicine happening to fail, I imagined it might be useful to continue the impression by other bitters. I therefore made a strong infusion of gentian, and, before

the calculated period, I took a cup of it; which, by its intense bitterness, produced a shuddering, which was followed by a regular paroxysm, although the disease had been so far removed that I scarcely thought of a return, even without the use of medicine; but the bark again being resorted to, the paroxysms did not afterwards appear.

"The advantage of being able to exhibit a distasteful medicine in one full dose, instead of several smaller ones repeated at certain intervals, must be immediately obvious, even supposing that in both ways it has an equally good effect; but, by this mode of administering the Peruvian bark, it is probable that the virtues of the medicine may be brought to bear more effectually on the intermittent paroxysm, and this disagreeable and injurious state be thereby, with more certainty, averted."

We are sorry the Doctor has omitted to notice the species of the Peruvian bark he employed. Some chemical physicians attribute the efficacy of the remedy to its constituent part, termed quinine; but the pale Peruvian bark, which does not afford it, has certainly proved more efficacious, in the cure of intermittent fever, than the yellow bark. A physician finding that he could not cure intermittent fever by any other preparation than the powder, attributed much of its effects to a mechanical action on the stomach, (by rendering, we suppose, more susceptible of its chemical constituents) an opinion which the result of Dr. Ridgway's practice tends to corroborate. It is certain that when the blue pill has been administered previously to the use of the Peruvian bark, or when four grains are given every night during its use, the small dose of twenty or thirty grains three times a day, will speedily succeed in effecting a cure. The success of this combined treatment the blind admirers of the hepatic system of medicine, attribute to the action of the blue pill on the liver. Mr. Abernethy observes, "facts are wanting to enable us to ascertain whether mercury (the blue pill) meliorates and augments the secretion of the other digestive organs, as it does that of the liver." We should suppose that every surgeon of experience and observation, must be satisfied that mercury pervades the whole system, even the bones themselves, and that it promotes or corrects the secretions or functions of the stomach and duodenum, and other organs; and hence it is unquestionably a powerful auxiliary to the Peruvian bark in cases of intermittent fever and numerous other diseases. One great advantage of mercury, we are satisfied, is rendering the stomach and the system in general, by its peculiar action on the nervous system, susceptible of the tonic action of the Peruvian bark, and other medicine. The effect of mercury, in promoting the operation of diuretic medicine is well known. Dr. Paris, in his Key Letters explanation of the "principles of Combination," accounts for this effect by the supposition that the mercury *directs* the diuretic article to the kidneys we should rather say that it renders the kidneys susceptible of the action of the diuretic article, independent of that on the absorption system. In cases of chronic cough, where expectoration is difficult from the tenacity of the mucus, a little mercury introduced into

the system, generally succeeds in promoting the efficacy of expectorants, by rendering the glands of the inner membrane of the windpipe susceptible of its action. When fluor albus or chronic debility of the urethra has not given way to our usual modes of treatment, we have been in the habit of employing mercury merely with the view of rendering the affected parts susceptible of the remedies, and by its cautious use we have in this respect generally found it to succeed.

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## THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

Dr. David Uwins, Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, late President of the London Medical Society, late Editor of the Medical Repository, &c. &c. &c. has lately published a "Compendium of Theoretical and Practical Medicine," in which he has given, to the best of his abilities, the symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of all the diseases incident to human nature, "with a General Review of Physiology and Pathology, and an Estimate of the present State of Medical Science."

In the Preface, the Doctor congratulates the profession and the public on the present state of the medical art. "A provision," says he, "is at length made against incompetency in *any* of its branches, and the education of the practitioners in *pharmacy* is now such, that those who claim to be ranked in the *highest* department, must *constantly* look well to their not being outstripped in attainment by those to whom they have hitherto been accustomed to dictate." The *medical* education of surgeon-apothecaries, thanks to the legislature, is now indeed very superior to that of the medical graduates of the English universities; and when they have finished their studies at the London hospitals, they are unquestionably much better acquainted with diseases and remedies than the graduates of Oxford or Cambridge are, when they quit their universities. The latter take the lead in the practice, and consider their services of such superior importance as to be entitled to a remuneration of one guinea for each visit, whilst the former, who, although they often direct the young physician in prescribing medicines, &c. and protect the patient against ignorance, or random practice, are only remunerated for their trouble by the profit arising from the medicines the patient is able to swallow. The young physician, however sensible of his obligation to the surgeon-apothecary, does not lose sight of *his* interest, but allows him to send medicines, in the form of draughts, and with directions for use, "to be taken every two or three hours," for *his benefit*. This traffic, infamous as it is, has more or less prevailed in this metropolis for many years! If, then, the surgeon-apothecary is better acquainted with the characters and treatment of diseases, and indeed with all the departments of medicine when he commences practice than the graduates of Oxford or Cambridge are, when they have finished their *university* education, i. e. by keeping a certain number of terms for the benefit of the university establishments, when or how do they become possessed of a superior knowledge of disease? The only answer that can with truth be made, is, when his fees will enable him to keep a carriage, and to make politic connexions.

Dr. Uwins thinks, that surgeon-apothecaries should be rewarded for their "important services, not as tradesmen, but as legitimate members of a liberal profession;" but that the highest honours of medicine, and even of surgery, should be made of *far more difficult attainment than is at present the case, and that the distinction should be more decidedly and practically observed between physic and surgery:*" by which this enlightened philosopher means to say, that medical education should be more expensive, and consequently that the sons of the middle classes of society should be excluded from it, as if talent and riches always go together.

In no part of the known world is medical education so expensive as in this country. In France, the hospitals belonging to the government, and the lecturers on the different branches of medicine, being paid out of the national purse, a complete medical education, even with the fee for a diploma, does not exceed the trifling expense of twenty shillings. The great advantage of this cheap system is, talent in every class is equally brought forward and encouraged, for the honour of the profession, and the benefit of mankind, without any regard to wealth or rank. "For *perfection in the physician*," Dr. Uwins observes, "the *requisite qualities and qualifications* are, if not of a *higher*, certainly of a *different kind* to those of a *surgeon*!" "To *medicine* (the department of the physician) says the Doctor, "belong *philosophical acumen, a promptness of drawing correct inferences, from occasionally doubtful premises, a large grasp of mind (query talons) and comprehensive attainments*; but *surgery* (says he) requires only *cleverness, tact, mechanical dexterity, and minute anatomical knowledge*!" In that species of philosophical acumen termed ridiculous sublimity, the Doctor at any rate excels; for in the extravagant dissertation on the wonderful healing qualities of a nostrum, we never met with such contemptible nonsense. If any department of medicine requires more *philosophical acumen, promptness in drawing correct inferences, a comprehensive attainment, &c. &c.* it is assuredly that of *surgery*; and we have no hesitation in asserting, that it is in this department they are most conspicuous. The learned Doctor, who, of course, is possessed of all that is necessary to *perfect* the physician, being, in his opinion, qualified to give lectures on medicine, boldly asserts, that "surgeons, when they meddle with medicine, make *and* work of it!" And although he allows that surgeons are better acquainted with *natural and morbid anatomy*, "yet," says he, "something more is required than a *familiarity with the blood and filth of a dissecting room, to form the mind! regulate the habits! and give character to the decisions of the qualified and real physician*!" So, then, the philosophical Doctor is so ignorant of the education of the surgeons of the present day, as to suppose it is only conducted in the dissecting room! The Doctor finding, on further reflection, that he had been rather too bold in this attack on surgeons, thought proper to qualify his assertions, by subjoining the following note:—"I am aware that this charge made on surgery only *partially applies*, and even where it does so, it is against the *principles*, rather than the *persons*, that I would direct my strictures!" The courageous Doctor, we must do him the justice to say, is only retailing the sentiments of the new society of physicians.

of which he is a member, and who are too well acquainted with politic medicine to be personal. The society well know that the surgeons of this country cannot, at any rate, be justly accused of pusillanimity; and we would advise them not to mistake their contempt for them for cowardice or indifference. The Doctor, after this qualification, becomes again violent; although," says he, "I shake hands, in cordial friendship, with *eminent* surgeons, I will not meet them in *sick rooms*, although they would readily hear the call to *medical consultation*."!!! "It was but yesterday," continues the liberal Doctor, "I heard of a surgeon refusing advice to a *wealthy* applicant, on the ground of its being a medical case: and if (says he) any in the ranks of the profession be entitled to the claim of *universal attainment* and *POWER* (!!!), it is the individual to whom I now allude, whose name I need not mention, when I state, that some eight or nine months since, he *surprised* **MANY** and *delighted* **ALL** who heard his lecture, by a manifestation of *splendor* of genius, *correctness* of taste, *richness* of information, and *rectitude* of principle."!!

Notwithstanding the *universal* attainments of this surprisingly learned surgeon, who, like the learned *pig* of Bond-street, *surprises* all his visitors, the doctor would not meet him in the sick room, or in a *medical consultation*!!! He will not condescend to meet a surgeon in a sick chamber, although the said surgeon had attended the patient from the commencement of the disease, and of course is acquainted with its progress, the effects of the medicines he had prescribed, and the peculiarities of his system!!! No, no: *humanity* and the benefit of the *unfortunate patient* must not interpose to derogate from the dignity of "a *qualified* and *real physician*," or rather, interfere with the *fee trade*.—Ah! ah! Doctor, there the shoe pinches.—Now all this certainly comes with *peculiar* propriety from a man who commenced his professional career as a surgeon-apothecary, and who took the degree of M. D. in consequence of his talents not having been duly appreciated by the patients of the surgeon-apothecary whose practice he purchased!!! When he practised as such, we know he very freely prescribed for *medical* cases, and no doubt thought himself as equal to the office as the most experienced physician!!! Another laughable fact is, that the doctor's class of pupils, to whom this nonsense is dedicated, consists of young surgeons!! Now if University air or dissipation be necessary to enable a medical student to acquire a correct knowledge of medicine, is it not a fraud to take the money of inexperienced youths, under the pretext of instructing them in theoretical and practical medicine, in a place where, in consequence of some peculiar condition of atmosphere, it cannot be taught? A certain *philosophical* class of apothecaries,—who from vanity more than a laudable love of fame, obtain a diploma,—really fancy that it places them on a level with men of scientific attainments, or with the most learned and experienced members of the profession, and of course to be infinitely superior to surgeon-apothecaries, to be capable of becoming teachers, and equal to the arduous task of determining the merits of all medical works!!! Some by pomposity or impudence, and that necessary qualification of a physician, of appearing most profoundly learned when he is most ignorant, have succeeded as physi-

cians, and that too after having failed to give satisfaction as apothecaries!! As to the extraordinary talented "surgeon of universal attainment and power," who declined to prescribe even for a "wealthy applicant," on the ground of his case being *medical*, we may venture to say that the cases of nineteen patients out of every twenty who consult him are medical. It is the talented surgeon's peculiar custom, so peculiar as to border on eccentricity, to ask his wealthy as well as his needy applicants for advice, as soon as he understands their cases to be medical, why they did not apply to a physician, instead of a surgeon? and when a patient replies that he thought he had treated on his case in his publication, he uniformly observes, with an expressive smile, "Come, come, my friend, I find you are a sensible man, and will listen to common sense, and if you will be governed by it, I will restore you to health." From a knowledge of the general practice of this highly talented surgeon, we may assert, without the fear of contradiction, that he never refused to prescribe for a patient, on the ground of his case being medical. In his surgical and anatomical lectures, we have heard him speak in terms of great contempt of the ignorance of a certain class of physicians, and emphatically to observe, that the physician who is unacquainted with anatomy, physiology and surgery, or what Dr. Uwins philosophically terms the blood and *flit* of a dissection-room, is a dangerous quack. He has also as emphatically observed, that the surgeon who is not acquainted with *all* the branches of medicine, and particularly with physic, is unworthy the title of surgeon. Will you, most learned Dr. Uwins, deny this assertion?

No man holds the medical opinions of partially educated physicians in greater contempt than this said Surgeon, and this is certainly a proof of his *universal attainments* and *POWER*.

"Some eight or nine years since," a Physician observed to him, that he had found yeast to succeed in the cure of a cancerous ulcer: the Surgeon, after pausing a minute, observed, with an expression of contempt peculiar to himself, it was one of those cases which would get well in spite of medicine!! The introduction of his last publication, commences with the following observation, which we think is somewhat to the point. "An *evil* seems to me to have arisen from the artificial division of the healing art into the medical and surgical departments. The division has caused the attention of the physician and the surgeon to be exclusively directed to those diseases which custom has arbitrarily allotted to their care." In the lecture "which surprised many and delighted all who *heard* him," we *heard* him distinctly deliver the same words, with the addition, that a system of medicine could not be perfect, without anatomy and surgery, and those which are independent of these departments are only splendid systems of quackery. Of this surgeon, we may with truth say, he never entered into any contract with a physician, to make merchandize of the afflicted; and has always been willing to meet any physician, surgeon, or apothecary, for the benefit of a patient, whether rich or poor.

Ancient medicine was chiefly surgical. Hippocrates, who is designated "the father of medicine," was, in fact, a surgeon; for the most

valuable parts of his works are his surgical remarks: and by the history of ancient and modern medicine, this indisputable fact appears, that all the physicians who have contributed to the progress of medical science, were surgeons, or educated in surgery. Celsus was an eminent surgeon as well as physician;—Galen, to whose works we are greatly indebted, was a surgeon and a physician. This great man entertained the same opinion of the qualifications of a *real* physician, as the surprisingly talented surgeon of the present day; viz.—that they should be *practically* acquainted with every department of medicine. This opinion gave such great offence to the sordid and partially educated physicians of Rome, who styled themselves legitimate physicians, that they endeavoured, like a certain contemptible society and class of physicians of this Metropolis, to prejudice the public against the promulgator; but *common sense* prevailed even in a Catholic country, and decided in his favour, and the legitimate were expelled the city as a set of impostors; and the period is not far distant, when the same will take place in this country; for in proportion as the public become acquainted with medicine, truth will prevail; and we are satisfied that associations, whose sole object is to keep the public in darkness with respect to their *art*, that they may more successfully practise their *arts*, will hasten their total discomfiture by provoking investigation.

It is a fact particularly worthy of notice, and which the history of medicine fully establishes, that the modern physicians, to whom the profession and mankind in general are indebted for the present improved state of medicine, were all educated in the school of surgery, and held in great estimation the knowledge they obtained in the dissection room of “blood and filth.”!! Here we may introduce the names of Harvey, Cullen, William Hunter, Baillie, Babington, Fordyce, and indeed of *all* the most eminent physicians this country has produced. The surgeons of the present day do not limit their practice to operations, or the dressing of wounds; they have studied *all* the branches of medicine, and are much more qualified to prescribe for diseases which are termed medical, than graduates of universities, who style themselves physicians, by virtue of a diploma, in obtaining which they were not even examined in medicine; and of course are more entitled to the denomination of physician, than even the licentiates of a College of Physicians, who have studied medicine only *two years*!!\*

Of late years the practice of medicine has been gradually getting into the hands of surgeons. The complaints of eighty out of one

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\* The College of Physicians of London, only require a residence of two years at an University, to entitle a person to an examination for a licence; and in consequence of this short apprenticeship, a schoolmaster and a coal merchant, after keeping terms for two years at an university, although previously unacquainted with medicine, have obtained licences to practise as physicians in London, and of course to direct apothecaries, who have been in the practice many years, in the treatment of the disease!! Of this respectable class, Dr. Uwins and the united society of physicians are members!! So much for the confidence to which qualified and *real* physicians are entitled!!

hundred of the patients of Sir Astley Cooper are medical; and this gentleman, we believe, has never, from vanity or eccentricity, refused to prescribe for a wealthy or even a poor patient; and instead of sanctioning a certain class of ignorant pretenders, he even reprimanded a physician, in the ward of a public hospital, for having presumed to prescribe for a patient under his care with a fractured limb. The physician claimed the right of the *constitutional* treatment of the patient, but Sir Astley honestly told him, that if the governors allowed a physician to interfere in any way with his patients, he would resign the appointment he held to the institution.

Surely Dr. Uwins, and his learned colleagues, Copland !! Shearman !! Temple !! and others equally learned, and no doubt equally anxious to support the fee trade, cannot be so ignorant of the term *medicine*, as not to know that it embraces anatomy, physiology, pathology, surgery, chemistry, therapeutics, and pharmacy, and consequently that no man can be entitled to the distinction of M.D. which signifies *learned in medicine*, who is not acquainted with all these branches. If a physician be ignorant of the characteristic appearances of local diseases—if he cannot distinguish a cancerous ulcer from a scrofulous or a syphilitic, or an ill-conditioned ulcer, is it possible that he can be qualified to prescribe medicine for the correction of the constitution? Is not the attempt indeed the grossest imposition that can be practised in an enlightened nation, being nothing less than tampering with human life for the mere sake of lucre? The fact is, and Dr. Uwins well knows it, certain classes of physicians are alarmed at the increasing confidence of the public in surgeon-apothecaries, or physicians who have been educated in a school of surgery. Needy physicians may congregate to keep the tub afloat, but the mass of mankind is more enlightened than whales, to be amused or duped by deception, or by misrepresentation, and too well acquainted with the tricks of designing men to be juggled, even by plausible sophistry, which, in a catholic country, where the reasoning power of man is suppressed for the purpose of making them willing slaves, might pass for sound reasoning. Really, Dr. Uwins, the public has a much greater interest in medicine than any class of practitioners. The principal object of the legitimate class or partially educated physicians, is the accumulation of wealth, whilst that of the public, in having recourse to medical aid, is nothing less than preservation of life, or the mitigation of corporeal sufferings, which will bear no comparison to wealth.

When an invalid sends for a physician, it is not to talk Latin and Greek to him, or look knowingly at a watch, but to prescribe for his afflictions; and, indeed, he must be an idiot, if he places more confidence in a practitioner, because he styles himself a legitimate physician, than in the surgeon-apothecary, who, in consequence of being acquainted with all the branches of medicine, can bring the rays of each to bear on that important part of medicine, the *treatment* of the malady. When the late king was solicited to confer the title of baronet on a late physician, he very emphatically observed, “Pitt, I can make him a baronet, it is true, but neither I nor a diploma can make him a physician.”

Notwithstanding the numerous works that have been lately pub-

lished for the use of students, or as guides for young practitioners in the "sick chamber," Dr. Uwins has discovered a vacancy for a *compendium*. "With the volumes of Good and Gregory, Temple and Thomas, in the hands of our students, what," says he, "can be wished for more? and, if a compendium be required, is it not furnished by the *Vade Mecum* of Dr. Hooper?" These questions are immediately followed by the following remarks:—

"No one can be more sensible to the respective *merits* of these several works, than is the author of the following pages. The first on the list affords, as I have elsewhere stated, a *noble specimen* of *what genius is capable of effecting, when backed by industry and regulated by taste*. Of Dr. Gregory's *Elements*, recently published, it is *impossible* to speak with *undue* praise. Dr. Temple's *Practice of Physic* has *too long* enjoyed a *high* reputation, to stand in need of any *encomium* from my pen; and whoever wishes to see, at one view, all that *practical* authors have been about, during the last quarter of a century, may consult with advantage the single volume of Dr. Thomas. For the *immediate* purposes of *mere practical reference*, Dr. Hooper's work possesses *considerable* value; but still a *compendious* combination of *pathology* with *practice*; of *doctrine with fact*; of *present day science* with *former information*; has long appeared to me a *decided* *desideratum* in *medical literature*. Under this impression, the items composing the present tract have been put together; and, under this impression, the tract itself is, at length, after many *unlooked for* delays, respectfully presented to the *medical student*."

The apology for the intrusion of a new compendium cannot but prove satisfactory to those readers who never think of investigating the *motives* of authors. The works of Temple, Thomas, and Gregory, which are compendiums, are perfect; and yet there is room for a *compendious* combination of *pathology and practice*? Surely, most learned teacher of medicine, no apology could possibly be necessary for the publication of a work from a practitioner, who styles himself—*a qualified and REAL physician*!!

With respect to the *merits* of the volumes of Good, a very great diversity of opinion exists among the members of the profession who have read them. It is such a work which we should have expected from a pompous pedantic schoolmaster, who prides himself on his knowledge of the dead languages. The author has very satisfactorily traced the names of diseases to their origin, and has made some proper *classical* alterations in them; but has he thereby thrown any light on the nature or treatment of the diseases? The modern alterations in the names of compounds tend to facilitate the study of chemistry and pharmacy, inasmuch as they convey the component parts of the article; but, whether a name of a disease be derived from the Hebrew, the Greek, the Latin, the Celtic, or any other language, surely, it can be of no consequence, if it throws no light on the nature of the malady. By multiplying the names of diseases, much injury has been done to the science of medicine, not only by rendering the nosology more complex, but by diverting the minds of those pupils who think themselves wonderfully learned, when they are acquainted with the medical nomenclature, from the study of the science of medicines. In science, there is a beautiful simplicity; and those who have a taste for the study of it, hold, in the most

sovereign contempt, a pedantic verbiage, although classical. It has been said, that knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages is necessary to form a physician, inasmuch as without it he cannot be a gentleman, or fit to associate with the first classes of society; and Dr. Paris, whose language is at any rate gentlemanly, expresses a hope, that the College of Surgeons will follow the example of the College of Physicians, in examining the candidates for the surgeons' diploma in the Latin language!!

We heard a Fellow of the College of Physicians, some few months since, observe, that Sir Lucas Pepys is the first physician of the age, because he can quote, with wonderful facility, the works of Hippocrates, in the *original language* on any disease!! So could the celebrated classic scholar, Porson; and yet Porson was not a physician, nor was his general habits or conduct that of a gentleman. Now we may venture to say, that 999 students out of every 1000, at the London hospitals, have had a good classical education; but let one be ever so well acquainted with the dead languages, and with the writings of the antients, when he commences his medical studies, is it possible for him to retain this knowledge for seven or eight years, if he prosecutes his studies in the different branches of medicine with a proper degree of ardour? The man acquainted with the extensive fields of physiology and chemistry alone, and the enthusiasm which the study of them produces in the minds of those who take pleasure in them, must be very ignorant of the capacity of the human mind, if he suppose that a person after being engaged seven years in such researches, can retain such a knowledge of even one of the languages as to be able to undergo an examination in the different branches of medicine in it; and if a man, who has *studied* medicine seven years, and practised it thirty, be capable of quoting the writings of the antients in their original languages, the inference is, that his stock of modern scientific or practical knowledge is very scanty.

The knowledge Dr. Good possesses of the Hebrew, the Celtic, the Greek, Latin and Arabic languages, has enabled him to make a most imposing nosology. It has indeed enabled him to rank *symptomatic* affections as *primary* diseases, and to add considerably to the catalogue of diseases. He has in fact made a medical labyrinth, out of which, were he to be placed in the centre, we suspect he would not, linguist as he is, be able to find his way. Poor fellow! we suspect his imagination is *confusedly* crowded with names, derivations, &c. that he must find every "such chamber" a labyrinth. His physiology would have been a good compilation, had he not complimented some flight-of-fancy physiologists, and have avoided comment or comparisons. In his description of diseases the Doctor gives nothing new—and as to his treatment of disease, ignorant indeed must be the apothecary who can collect any useful or practical information from it. As to Dr. Temple's work, which Dr. Uwins very justly observes, has *too long* enjoyed a *high* reputation, it has been dead much "*too long*" to be resuscitated by a puff direct or oblique, even from a "*qualified or real physician*," or even by the "*society of physicians*" of the United Kingdom," of which Dr. Uwins and his friend Temple are members. Thomas's practice of physic is an

industrious compilation, or variegated patch-work, which evinces a great want of *practical* knowledge in the author, in the execution of which he evidently employed the scissars more than the pen; and as to the *Vade-Mecum* of Dr. Hooper, it is such a work that we should expect from a routine or plodding practitioner.

Doctor Uwins has divided his work into three parts: in the first he boldly enters the fields of physiology and pathology, and here he makes a wonderfully imposing display of that philosophical acumen, promptness of drawing *correct* inferences from occasionally *doubtful* causes, a *large grasp* of mind, and comprehensive attainment, which distinguish *qualified* and *real* physicians from surgeons. This exhibition occupies no less than ninety-two pages of his *Compendium*. The perusal of it reminded us of the fable of the Hen with one Chick, or rather the title of a play, "Much Ado about Nothing." The second part is a copy of Culleh's *Nosology*, which occupies *fifty* pages.

Contrary to the modern art of book-making, it certainly saves much intellectual labour, a *matter* of no small importance to "a *qualified* and *real* physician," although he may possess "a *large grasp* of mind," who has contracted with a publisher to supply matter for a certain number of pages. The third part is subdivided into two sections, the first embracing the definition of the diseases specified in the *Nosology*, with their symptoms, causes and treatment; and the second, "remarks on the present state of medicine in Great Britain," of which he is certainly well qualified to give a full practical exposition, having acted as an apothecary, a surgeon, a "real physician," a teacher, a reviewer, and a popular writer for a magazine. The first part being connected with the last sub-division of the third part, we shall defer noticing it till we arrive to the latter. The second part having been published forty years ago, is rather too old for criticism. We therefore commence with the first subdivision of the third part, viz. the description, symptoms, causes, and treatment of diseases. As the *compendium* is much *too large* for notice in one number, we purpose giving two or three diseases in each subsequent number; and in order to enable our readers to form a just opinion of the "merits" of the work, we intend also to notice, in an opposite column the opinions and mode of treatment of the same disease, from "that noble specimen of what genius is capable of eliciting, when *backed* by industry, and *regulated* by taste."!!! (Vide Dr. Good's *Volumes*.) We confessed we should have thought more highly of the brilliant production, if the opinions had been *backed* by practical observation, and regulated by experience. The inconsistent contemptible trash of Dr. Uwins's preface, has imperceptibly led us into such a field for observation, that our attempts to refute, what in fact speaks for itself, have occupied so many pages, that we must defer the commencement of the analysis of the body of the work till our next number.

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### GOUT, RHEUMATISM, &c.—(Continued from Page 108.)

The doctor's *acetic* extract of *colchicum*, we hope, has proved more beneficial to himself and his chymist, than his twenty-shilling book

has to gouty invalids;—a work certainly of great professional ingenuity, inasmuch as it leaves gouty subjects, who have had patience to wade through all its pages, more in the dark with respect to the treatment and prevention of their malady, than they were before they read it. But this is policy; *advice* will, to the perfect satisfaction of one of them, elucidate the subject,—and who is more capable of giving it than the *learned* physician, who is capable of extending a treatise on the causes, prevention, and treatment of one disease to a twenty-shilling volume?

Mr. Bushell, a surgeon of experience and observation, has lately administered the tincture of the flowers of the colchicum, with such success in rheumatism, that he is induced to give it a decided preference to the preparations of the root or the seeds; and, like a man of science, instead of referring his readers to *his* chymist for a preparation of them by *his* directions; he gives instructions for making it. The following is a copy of his receipt:

Take of Flowers of Colchicum, dried and bruised, one ounce;  
Proof spirit, one pound.—After macerating  
for seven days, strain off the tincture for use.

Mr. Bushell has published some cases of rheumatism, in which this tincture in the dose of fifty to eighty drops, removed the disease in a few days; and also a case of inflammation of the iris, in which it proved successful in conjunction with the external application of the extract of deadly nightshade.

We have not given this preparation a trial; but from the odour and taste of the leaves, we are not disposed to think more favourably of it than of the tincture of the seeds, especially the alkaline tincture. This article we have extensively prescribed to allay nervous irritation, in gouty and rheumatic subjects, and we never met with a case in which it failed to produce the desired effect; and in no instance have we known it to act injuriously. We have always administered it in conjunction with such remedies as the state or peculiarity of the constitution of the patients indicated; and never in a large dose with the view of *speedily* terminating a paroxysm of gout.

When gout occurs in a plethoric or inflammatory habit, the alkaline tincture in the dose of a tea-spoonful two or three times a day, is unquestionably a most valuable remedy; but when the subject is of a leucophlegmatic habit, and especially when he is liable to gouty affections of the head, heart, stomach, or intestines, it is a most dangerous one. For rheumatism, either acute or chronic, it appears to be both an efficacious and a safe auxiliary to such remedies, as the state of the stomach or intestines may require.

The late Sir Joseph Banks was very particular to this preparation; but he took it only in the dose of forty drops to allay the general irritation of the nervous system; and in this quantity taken at bed time, it generally so far succeeds in allaying the excess of irritation of the nervous system, as to insure a comfortable night, or to admit of refreshing sleep.

## SURGERY.

## ORGANIC DISEASES.

The commencement and progress of organic disease, or morbid change of structure, have engaged the attention of those members of the medical profession since the period of Hippocrates to the present time, who have cultivated medicine as a science for the benefit of their fellow-creatures, and who have been more anxious to acquire honest fame than base lucre. Primitive medicine being chiefly surgical, the antient physicians availed themselves of every opportunity of examining diseased structure; but the laws even of the most enlightened nations were hostile to such investigations. In modern times, several valuable works have appeared on morbid changes, or what is termed "morbid anatomy."—Morgagni, a celebrated physician of Italy, has immortalized his name by a voluminous work on this subject; but, perhaps, to the labours of none are we more indebted for a faithful delineation of morbid structure than to our countrymen, William and John Hunter, Munroe and Baillie. Notwithstanding their works, organic diseases remain as incurable as they were in the time of Hippocrates. Indeed, we believe no set of practitioners have less confidence in the powers of medicine than those who have paid particular attention to organic diseases. The late Doctor Baillie, in all obstinate internal disorders of long standing, especially of elderly people, suspected diseased structure; and, having had an opportunity of examining organic diseases only in their last stage, i. e. after they had terminated life, he considered them hopeless, and accordingly ordered such medicines which were likely to keep up the digestive power of the stomach, and to obviate costiveness. His favourite composition in such cases was an infusion of roses with Epsom salt, and sometimes an infusion of cascara with compound tincture of cardamom seeds and Epsom salt, to which he added, when the patient was nervous, or the disease attended with pain, the extract of henbane, in the proportion of three or four grains to each dose of the mixture. The treatment he was satisfied prolonged life, by quieting the nervous system, (not like advertised nostrums, merely by amusing the mind,) and by keeping up a healthy action in the stomach and intestines. By this treatment the progress of organic disease has, no doubt, been very considerably retarded; whereas, had the Doctor employed active means to remove the diseased mass by stimulating the absorbent vessels by mercury, &c. he might not only have accelerated its progress, but, by disturbing the general health, have hastened the patient to his long home. We have heard him observe, on consultation in a case of enlarged spleen, that the patient, without medical aid, might probably live three years, but if a practice were adopted to reduce it (by mercury or electricity) he would most probably not live one year; but if, said he, we attend to his stomach and bowels and keep his nervous system quiet, he will probably live ten years; and even were we to succeed in removing the disease, by increasing the

action of the absorbents, he would probably not live beyond that period. This was, indeed, *sound* reasoning, founded on the result of long experience. The Doctor, however, was speaking of an internal organic disease which had so far advanced as to be evident on external examination. We have heard a surgeon, at the time of examining a diseased organ, after it had proved fatal, exclaim—Good God! what remedy or treatment could be equal to the cure of this mass of disease? All organic diseases are, probably, the consequence of local disorder,—and, in their infancy, are as curable as any other malady; and, were physicians acquainted with surgery, they would always, in the treatment of simple disorder, hold in view the prevention of organic mischief; but, such is the infamous *regular* and *irregular* quackery of the present day, (sounded on legitimate rights or privileges transmitted from barbarous ages), that the disorder is deemed the province of the physician till *organic* disease has taken place, and then it is assigned to the surgeon!!

Bachelor Venables has added to his "*Clinical reports of dropsies*," (noticed in our 110th Number), some *practical* remarks on the progress and treatment of "*organic diseases in general*," in order, as he imagines, to throw light on their origin and mode of cure. The learned bachelor, for learned he assuredly is, being able to head every chapter with a scrap of Latin, observes—"To suppose that an organ can be *functionally* deranged without a *corresponding* change in its structure, would be to imagine an *effect* without a *cause*; an idea wholly at variance with every principle of reasoning, *physical* and *metaphysical*!" This is, indeed, a very pretty specimen of the medical reasoning of Cambridge, the celebrated school of *legitimate* medicine. We may venture to assert, there is not a surgeon or apothecary in this country who is not aware that the functions of an organ depend on its nerves, blood-vessels, and absorbents; and if the nerves be in a state of excessive irritation, or the transmission of blood be hurried through it by increased vascular action, it will be "*functionally* deranged;" and surely such a state of nerves, or blood-vessels, will exist without *any change* of structure—instances of which, every surgeon, even in a very confined practice, must meet with every day. The bachelor then condescends to give Mr. Abernethy's definitions of *disorder* and *disease*, viz. "Disorder is an *unhealthy* state of the *feelings* or *functions* of the parts, without any apparent alteration of structure; and disease, a *visible* alteration in the appearance of structure of the affected part... Disorder is *nervous*; disease is the effect of vascular actions, excited by nervous disorder: an organ may become *diseased*, to a certain degree, and yet, *disorder* ceasing, its *feelings* and *functions* may be *natural* and *healthy*; yet disease must have a tendency to establish disorder."!!—Disease, or diseased structure, according to "the chylopoietic theory of disease," is the effect of *vascular actions*; which is again, the effect of disorder!! Now, will any surgeon, capable of observation, say that the nerves of an organ are not frequently disturbed by an accelerated circulation, from increased action of the heart? The vascular action is very frequently the primary affection, and hence the seeds of organic disease, viz. deposition in the cellular

substance, are often formed during inflammatory fever. A person unacquainted with anatomy, would suppose, by Mr. Abernethy's precious piece of theory, that an organ is composed only of blood-vessels, nerves, and a portion of cellular substance to connect them. They are furnished with absorbent vessels; and, with respect to the health of the *substance* of the organ, it depends as much on the absorbent vessels as on the nerves, or blood-vessels. If the absorbents do not act in concert with the nutrient or depositing extremities of arteries, some organic mischief will probably ensue, and even proceed to an incurable extent, without interrupting the functions of the organ, or disturbing the nerves so as to occasion pain, till the process of decomposition takes place. Again, parasitical productions will form in a viscous, as hydatids and tubercles in the liver, lungs, &c. which are independent of *morbid* alteration in the *structure* of the organ; and when they die and putrify, they disturb the nerves and blood-vessels, and produce inflammation, without producing change of structure; a class of diseases which destroy more lives in Europe, than all the structural diseases of organs.

Bachelor Venables's extensive practice, as physician to the Henley Dispensary, and as *extraordinary* physician to the workhouse, and no less extensive reading, have convinced him that "the animal mechanism may be considered susceptible of *three* degrees of *change* :—The first," says he, "consisting of such a change as has been generally named irritation; which Mr. Abernethy has termed *disorder*. The second degree comprehends those changes which are the result of the less severe inflammatory affections; and which," observes the bachelor, "may be termed *disease*. The third change includes those alterations which render the structure itself *worse than useless*; for it becomes a perpetual source of irritation, and, generally speaking, ultimately proves fatal."!

In describing the first degree, viz. irritation, he contends that alteration of structure does take place, but that it is not *always* visible, because it is sometimes confined to the "ultimate particles"!! If the *ultimate* particles are diseased, surely the whole mass must be so. The bachelor differs in opinion with Abernethy in regard to the origin of organic disease. He has discovered that the nerves are not *primarily* affected, but that the cause is in the *quality* of the blood! "It was supposed," says he, "that when an animal was suffocated, the heart ceased to contract, because *black* blood was not a sufficient stimulus to the ventricles."!!—"Physiologists," proceeds the bachelor, "did not then reflect that the *right* ventricle *propelled*, and that the pulmonary arteries *circulated* *BLACK* or dark-coloured blood!! As *excitability* depends on the quality of the blood, may we not," says this great physiologist, "logically infer, that *any* alteration in the *physical* and *chemical* constitution of this fluid, will, in a corresponding degree, increase or diminish the excitability?" Of this fact, the bachelor asserts he has *daily* proof!! "We observe," says he, "the heart, and other structures, are preternaturally excited, where the blood exhibits the *buffy coat*."!! In pregnant women, the bachelor has discovered, "the blood becomes *seriously changed*; and, in proportion as this change is more evident, the irritation arising from

pregnancy becomes more conspicuous." That excitability *resides* in the *quality* of the blood, he says, is clear, from the *fact* that the *life* and *excitability* of a part cease the *moment* its substance is supplied with black, or dark, instead of red-coloured blood. For which most important piece of information, he says, the medical world is indebted to Bechat. For what class of readers is this ridiculous nonsense published? If the author really supposed that he was communicating useful information to the medical profession, it must be evident to our medical readers, that he is unacquainted with the state of medicine in every part of this country except Cambridge. Most learned bachelor, *every apothecary* in this kingdom, even those of Cambridge, know that the "buffy coat of the blood is the *effect*, and not the *cause* of vascular excitement, or of inflammatory action." As to the idea that the blood becomes "*seriously changed*," during pregnancy, so as to irritate the system, it is too ridiculous for refutation; because every practitioner, of common observation, must know that an irritative local disease very frequently terminates during pregnancy. Even far advanced organic disease of the lungs is often suspended during this process of nature. As to the destructive effects of *black* blood, as the learned bachelor terms it, it is well known that, during a paroxysm of asthma, this said black blood, the same as circulates in veins, circulates in the arterial system; and hence the lips, during a paroxysm, are peculiarly dark. In all cases of *suspended* animation from suffocation, the blood of arteries is "*black*." As to "*excitability* residing in the *quality* of the blood," it has been most satisfactorily ascertained that the heart will continue to contract and dilate for several minutes after decapitation, when there is no blood in either of the ventricles. We would ask this luminary of Cambridge, or rather star of the first magnitude, in what respect does arterial or florid blood differ from the venous or *black* blood; and why the former should be stimulating, and the latter capable of destroying life in a moment? The venous blood is dark, in consequence of containing carbon, with which it parts during its transmission through the lungs. Inflammable gas is also separated from it; but these articles are, in our opinion, more likely to increase than diminish its stimulating powers. It has been ascertained, by a variety of experiments, that the temperature of venous blood is three or four degrees (Farb.) higher than that of arterial blood; and the matter of heat being a powerful stimulus to the vital powers, it is not unreasonable to suppose that venous blood is more stimulating than arterial blood. It is also a fact, that the temperature of the body is reduced by inhaling oxygen gas; which conveys a greater quantity of carbon and hydrogen from the blood, than atmospheric air.

Indeed, learned Bachelor of the celebrated *medical* school of Cambridge, the public is too enlightened to be amused or attracted by medical froth or flowery verbiage. They look for simple facts and sound reasoning, of which they are as competent judges as the professors and the medical logicians of Cambridge. We certainly agree with a medical bigot of an English University, that there is a great difference in the exercise of the mind in *reading* and *studying* at an university, and at an ordinary seminary. At

Cambridge and Oxford the students *read* certain classical works over and over again, in order to impress their contents on their minds. Their object is to stock their minds with classic lore, and with it they are content. If in promiscuous company they can bring forward a quotation from an ancient writer, in the original language of the author, applicable to the subject of conversation, they pass as *learned* men, and are on exceeding good terms with themselves. The classical education at common seminaries is only sufficient to bring forward the intellectual powers; hence common readers not only go over the contents of a book, but they reflect and presume to draw inferences. The one (the university-man) is content with his stock of classic knowledge, and dares not trust himself to go a jot further; whilst the other reads the grand book of nature, and in these times he is capable of detecting ignorance, although thickly cloaked by a dead language, plausible sophistry, and university pomposity. To the clergyman, and even the barrister, a classical education is indispensable; and to the physician, we admit, it is ornamental, but with the *science* of medicine, which is really a modern creation, it has nothing to do. The use of educating youth is to strengthen the intellect, and bring forward that reasoning power which gives man such an elevation over the brute creation, and not to muddle or perplex the mind by *rote* knowledge, or by overloading the memory.

In describing the change which constitutes the second stage of organic disease, Bachelor Venables condescends to notice the theory of another great physiologist of the present day, of the state of the stomach during indigestion, viz. Dr. Philip! "This learned doctor," says he, "has divided indigestion into three stages. The first he conceives to depend on *debility* of the *muscular* and *nervous* power of the stomach,\* the second is characterised by *symptoms of local inflammation* and a hard pulse, and the third is that in which the secondary affections have become *organic diseases*." This luminous, and no doubt, according to modern signification of the term, *practical*, division of indigestion, gave the Bachelor Venables the idea of dividing *organic diseases* into different stages. Now so far from the stomach, during the first stage of indigestion, being in a state of debility, and in the second stage, in a state of inflammation, we are satisfied the reverse is in general the case. Indigestion in this country, especially among the higher classes of society, is generally the consequence of over-stimulation and distension of the stomach, either by spirituous or vinous liquors, high seasoned dishes or large meals. Now, in such cases, what is likely to be the *real* state of the stomach? Most assuredly that of in-

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\* Notwithstanding this said first stage is dependant on debility, both of nerves and muscles, the promulgator condemns the use of such medicines which are calculated to remove the debility, as stimulants and tonics, because they hasten the second stage, which is inflammatory!! This is, indeed, medical logic founded on pathology, physiology, and every other ology except common ology, vulgarly termed common sense.

creased or inflammatory excitement, or what Mr. Abernethy has termed, a feverish condition ; and is not such a state likely to terminate in debility, after the stomach has become accustomed to stimulants or exhausted by full meals ? The idea of debility of stomach advancing by degrees to an opposite condition, viz. inflammation, is in our opinion ridiculous in the extreme, and has no doubt led to a mal-treatment of indigestion. In this curious progress of indigestion (from debility to local inflammation), the debility must necessarily arrive to a period of health, after which we suppose it advances to inflammation, and this again to organic disease ! ! ! The answer to this is, indigestion is the most common complaint in this country ; indeed we very seldom meet with a person entirely free from some symptom of it, and yet organic disease of the stomach is a very rare affection. This organic disease, the last stage of indigestion, has again its stages, of languor, inflammation, and ulceration ! ! ! and these stages are accompanied by indigestion ! ! ! It certainly becomes such theorists to talk of the "wonderful improvements made by the moderns in medicine," for certainly in the works of the ancients, there is nothing truly preposterous.

In the definition of the last degree of organic disease, we discover nothing worthy of notice, except fine sounding words, and what may be termed jargonic logic, which, in the dark ages, might have passed as profound learning. It is in fact medical philosophy run mad. In the commencement of the chapter on the treatment of organic diseases (which as usual he introduces with a scrap of Latin), the Bachelor enters into the consideration of fever. "He has," he says, "repeatedly witnessed the advantage of blood-letting, in cases where there was no other symptom to warrant it except an hardness of the pulse, and some degree of fever;" and, in a note to this observation, he states, "I have never witnessed a hard pulse alone, or without some degree of fever, and I do not believe the former ever appears without the latter" ! In true inflammatory fevers and sympathetic fever attendant on some corporeal injury, as a fractured limb, &c. we sometimes meet with a hard pulse, by which is meant a full pulse, but in other fevers, or fevers attendant on inflammation of the lungs, heart, brain, &c. the pulse is often small, easily compressed but quick. We often meet with a hard, or a full pulse, without any symptom of fever, indeed with an opposite state of system, in consequence of the brain and heart being oppressed by distended vessels. A hard or full pulse may indicate the propriety of abstracting blood in many cases of disease, but certainly is not always an evidence of the presence of fever.

Oxygen the author has discovered to be necessary for the support of animal life ; "but," says he, "it has been ascertained that an atmosphere of pure oxygen increases the excitability of the patient to an extent incompatible with life ; and if its inhalation be continued for any time, inflammatory action and death ultimately will succeed." Now the fact is, oxygen inhaled to the extent of many gallons, reduces excitability of the system, abates febrile action,

and quiets the nervous system, and this we assert to be a fact from numerous experiments made on ourselves, and by some philosophical physicians of London.

On the authority of Dr. Paris, the Bachelor asserts, "that an abstraction of blood proves a powerful means of awakening the dormant susceptibilities of the system to the impressions of medicinal agents." The awaking effect of a loss of blood must depend on the state of the system, and the means by which it is extracted. If bleeding be resorted to in cases of organic disease, when the vital powers have been reduced by the irritating influence of the local disease, or by preceding stages of indigestion, instead of *awaking* the *dormant* susceptibilities, it will be very likely to put the whole system in a dormant state, from which no human power will be able to rouse it. We have gone through the Bachelor's chapter of the treatment of organic disease, in the hope of being able to collect something new for the edification of our readers, but the following are the only parts we have met with worth transcribing.

"A cultivation of the philosophy of the sciences presents the prospect of still greater advantages, which, perhaps, we professional men are too apt to overlook—I mean the *moral* cultivation and *improvement* of the mind. An invalid, whose idea of the Supreme Being extends perhaps no farther than a mere compliance with custom in addressing *hebdomadal* supplications, will, in prosecuting the *philosophy* of a science, discover such omnipotence and justice; and the exercise of such mercy, attention, and benevolence towards even the *meanest* of his creatures, as will inspire him with a well-founded hope and confidence in that solicitous care and consideration which the Deity has manifested every where throughout the creation. These are objects which are far from beneath the *dignity* of *philosophical MEDICINE*."

Speaking of iodine as a remedy for scrofula, he says, "To deny that iodine possesses extraordianay powers in scrofula, would be to deny a fact which may be tested and proved, and which every day's observation and experience fully confirm; but to deny that great mischief, even the most serious consequences, may result from an ignorant and empirical exhibition, would be equally absurd and incorrect.

"It is an established principle in pharmacology, says he, that similar remedies, if combined, reciprocally increase each other's effect. Hence the idea occurred to me, that a union of iodine (chemically) with mercury, might increase the medicinal efficacy of each, while, at the same time, both might be thus disarmed of those properties which render them, singly, injurious in scrofula. The idea no sooner occurred, than I instituted a number of experiments, to determine the most advantageous mode of preparing, as well as of ascertaining the properties of the mercurial iodides. It would be superfluous here to enter on the detail of these experiments, the more especially as I perceive their preparation and properties are sufficiently explained for practical purposes, in the Appendix to Magendie's Formulary, by Dr. Dunglison. Suffice it to say, that I succeeded to the full extent of my expectations on the first point,

that is, increasing the energies of the remedies by combination; and that I partially succeeded in the second. As far as regards the second object, depriving the remedies of their objectionable properties, it is not completely effected by their union. The combination is apt to excite the force of the heart and arteries, and so to increase the momentum of the circulation. Hence, when fever, or any marked tendency to fever prevails, the diathesis wherein this tendency consists should be corrected, before the mercurial iodides be exhibited. It frequently happens, that where no febrile symptoms were observable before the exhibition of the iodides, some time after the administration a febrile tendency prevails, and the manifestations sometimes run very high. Immediately on the appearance of such symptoms, we should desist from the farther use of the remedy, and institute those means which experience has proved most efficacious in subduing fever."

"The protiodide of mercury, which is the mildest of the iodides of mercury, is formed by the decomposition of protonitrate of mercury, by a solution of hydriodate of potass\* or soda, is a yellowish powder, and consists, when properly prepared, of 2.5 mercury, and 1.56 iodine. This may be given in doses of from one to two grains at first, even to children. Adults may begin with even three grains. However, large doses do not seem necessary, for the gradual but constant influence of the medicine will be more efficacious than any active effects, and which would immediately require the suspension of its use, should no worse consequences ensue."

We employed a combination of iodine and mercury, in some desperate cases of scrofula, about two years since, and we were obliged to abandon it, in consequence of its disordering the stomach. We have also found iodine to disturb the stomach, even when the blue pill was only administered at night, and the iodine in the forenoon and afternoon. If the state of the organic disease renders the use of mercury necessary, the best mode of introducing is by rubbing the mercurial ointment into the skin, during the internal exhibition of iodine.

### COW-POX.

Dr. Casper, a Prussian physician, has been for some time collecting facts, in order to ascertain the effect of cow-pox on the general mortality of Prussia. The result of his inquiries prove, that not only the mortality among infants, but even the general mortality has been diminished by it in that kingdom, which dis-

\* "It may also be prepared extemporaneously, by directing the trituration of about two parts of hydriodate of potass with three of calomel; there is an immediate interchange of principles—the iodine of the hydriodate unites to the mercury, and the chlorine of the calomel unites to the potass. As prepared in this way, there is an intermixture of protochloride, commonly called submuriate of potass. This might be separated by washing; but," says Mr. Venables, "I think in glandular affections of the mesentery, it frequently exalts the virtues of the iodide, and I therefore do not remove it."

proves the assertion of some writers of the effects of cow-pox, in rendering other maladies more fatal.

Dr. Casper draws the following certainly important conclusions from the result of his investigations.

“ 1. The small-pox formerly carried off from one-twelfth to one-tenth of the population.

“ 2. Of twelve children born at Berlin, one formerly perished of small-pox; at present, not more than 116 die from the same cause.

“ 3. The diseases of infancy are more common than before the introduction of vaccination, because the number of infants that live is more considerable than it used to be.

“ 4. Those diseases formerly destroyed 39 infants in 100,—at present, only 34 in 100 perish by them; so that before the introduction of vaccination 51 children in 100 died, whilst, at present, only 43 die out of the same number. There is, therefore, a sensible diminution in the mortality among infants.

“ 5. Formerly, the general calculation was of one death in every 28 inhabitants; it is, at present, not more than one in 34. There is, therefore, a sensible diminution in the general mortality.”

It is said, the French Academy have appointed M. de Chateauneuf to collect information on this important subject in France.

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## FRACTURE OF THE BONES OF THE LEG.

About nine years since, Mr. Bush published a description of a machine for fractures of the bones of the leg, with some practical remarks on fracture of the thigh bone, and a graphic delineation of the elastic iron cradle. This instrument Mr. Bush first tried on his own person, and so completely did it answer the intention of keeping the ends of the fractured bones steadily in their proper situation, that he was enabled to move about with more freedom than he had ever witnessed in any other patient, and actually walked about on crutches during the whole time of the cure. Since that time, Mr. Bush has used no other cradle, for all accidents of this kind. “ I am well aware,” says Mr. B., “ that were a patient to lie in bed immovable as a log, a common pillow would supersede the use of a contrivance of this sort; but the difficulty of keeping the ends of fractured bones of the lower extremities in a proper situation, in a restless patient, till union has taken place, is well known to the surgeon, and often leads to deformity and a protracted cure.

Experience has suggested some considerable improvements in the fracture cradle; these have been most happily carried into effect by the ingenuity and perseverance of Mr. Alfred Green, of Sheffield, who has succeeded in connecting the machinery for the leg, with splints for the thigh, so constructed as to follow free motion of the knee; and may be so altered by the most simple process, as to admit of being applied to a person of large or of small stature. This instrument, says Mr. B. which I would call “ Green’s elastic fracture cradle,” combines all the advantages that can be expected from mechanism, and as performed by Mr. Green, is a valuable acquisition to surgery.

## COUCHING.

The following method of performing the operation of couching among the Hindoos, will prove interesting to our medical readers.

"The patient being seated on the ground, opposite to the operator, and the eyelids secured by an assistant, he is directed to turn the eye upwards, and to keep it steadily in that position. A puncture is then made, with a spear-pointed lancet, through the sclerotic tunic, at its lower border, about one line, or a little more from its junction with the cornea; and, to prevent the lancet from penetrating too far into the substance of the eye, a piece of charpie or thread is wrapped round it about three eighths of an inch from its point. When the puncture is completed, the lancet is withdrawn, which is, of course, followed by the escape of the aqueous humour, and a brass instrument gradually tapering to a point is introduced through the incision, in a direction upwards and backwards, until the point reaches the upper margin of the lens. The lens is then depressed downwards and backwards, into the substance of the vitreous humour. After the operation, the eye is lightly covered with a piece of cotton cloth, secured by a turn or two of a bandage. In this manner, the operation is always performed, and, if we may credit the account of the operators, with the most wonderful success. They are unacquainted with the operation of extraction, and were astonished at the effect of the deadly-night-shade in dilating the pupil."—*Physical and Medical Journal*.

Rude as this operation is, it shews that the Hindoo surgeons are acquainted with the cause of blindness from diseased lens, or are able to ascertain, by inspection, the state of the lens. To say that the intention of the operation by the tapering brass instrument, is to rupture the cyst, so that the diseased lens might be absorbed, would perhaps be giving them credit for a knowledge of the science of surgery, to which they are not entitled. Mr. Mahomed, of Brighton, speaks in very high terms of the medical knowledge, (physical and chirurgical) of the Hindoo practitioners. The practice of shampooing, we believe, originated with them; and that this has been successfully employed in a variety of paralytic and rheumatic cases, after the usual remedies of electricity, blistering, fomenting, warm bathing, mercurialising, &c. had failed, must be admitted. The Hindoo practitioners are not blinded by any partial theory of diseases, as the hepatic of Curry, or Chylopoietic of Abernethy. They administer only remedies from the vegetable kingdom, and some of these Mr. Mahomed continues to employ. His vegetable pills, for purging the viscera, we have examined; but in consequence of their being composed of vegetable productions, we have not been able to ascertain from what particular vegetables they were obtained. We have met with patients who have stated that they have derived more benefit from them in cases which they termed *bilious* and liver complaints, than from any other remedy. He also employs a vegetable aperient electuary, which produces copious motions; a vegetable balsam for cough; a vegetable nervous stomachic for nervous indigestion; a vegetable remedy for debility of the bladder, &c. &c.; the composition of which cannot be ascertained by chemical examination, further than to say they contain

gum, resin, and an essential oil of some vegetables, the medicinal virtues of which cannot be discovered by analysis.

Mr. Mahomed being a very liberal practitioner, we have no doubt he will communicate to the public the composition of his Hindoo medicines, which we have no hesitation in saying will prove more generally useful than the ridiculous hepatic theories and poisonous mercurial practice of some of the European surgeons of the East Indies.

### LEPROUS AFFECTION OF THE SKIN, &c.

The following case of lepra, vulgarly termed land scurvy, lately occurred at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, under the care of Dr. Carter. Isaac Jarman, shipwright, of Ramsgate, was admitted a patient of the hospital on the 13th of August last, with well-marked lepra, of three months standing. The disease, the patient said, was a family complaint. He had worked laboriously, and had lived on a spare diet. The ointment of prussiate of mercury (of the new Medico-chirurgical Pharmacopœia) was ordered to be applied to the parts chiefly affected, and eight grains of the compound pill of submuriate of mercury (Plummer's pill) in two pills, every night, and a wine-glassful of the decoction of the bitter sweet (*solanum lignosum*) with 15 drops of the liquor of potass, twice a day. The sulphur bath was also employed, and the patient allowed a full diet, with porter. Little or no improvement appearing, after ten days trial of these remedies, the Doctor ordered the following draught, to be taken three times a day.

Take of Decoction of Peruvian Bark, an ounce and a half.

Extract of Ditto Ditto, ten grains.

Saturated Solution of the Oxymuriate of Potass, three drachms.

And the following pills, to be taken every night.

Take of Blue Pill, seven grains.

Extract of Hemlock, five ditto.—Mix and divide into three pills. He ordered the ointment to be repeated.

After persisting in the use of these medicines for a fortnight, he was better, and the Doctor observes, "I discovered that he amended from the 1st of September, when the bath was employed for the first time. The use of the bath having been ordered on the 13th of August, we hope some subscriber to the Charity will enquire into the reason of its not having been employed till the 1st of September; for not only the interest of the hospital, but the health of the unfortunate patient, suffered by the apparent neglect of the apothecary or the nurse.

"This complaint," says Dr. Carter, "was a well-marked case, and the cure was complete; and, as far as I can say, it will prove permanent."

In a case of diffused itch (by no means an uncommon disease in the metropolis) Dr. Carter prescribed the decoction of bitter sweet, solution of the oxymuriate of potass, and Plummer's pills; the mixture of the two former in the proportions specified in the preceding case, three times a day, and the latter in the dose of 7 grains at bed-time,

and an ointment of red precipitate to be rubbed over the parts *chiefly* affected once a day. The warm bath was also employed; but in consequence of the head becoming overloaded with blood, followed by bleeding at the nose, it was discontinued, and leeches applied to the temples. The medicines were continued: the patient was a female, aged seventeen. The remedies proved successful, and the patient was soon discharged, cured.

The treatment adopted in the first case is applicable to a great variety of acute and chronic affections of the skin. That the sulphur vapour bath, or the sulphuretted bath, is a most important auxiliary to internal alterative medicines, will not admit of doubt, even were the question referred to that man of nice conscientious feelings and conceptions, the Lord Chancellor of England, to decide. Of the efficacy of this remedy, in cutaneous diseases, if we required any evidence, that which has been laid before the public by Mr. Green, a scientific surgeon, of Bury-street, and by Sir Arthur Clarke, M. D. of Dublin, would be perfectly conclusive, they having paid particular attention to diseases of the skin, and to the effect of sulphuretted and sulphur vapour baths. In cases of diffused itch, or small itchy eruptions diffused over the surface of the body, or indeed in leprous or any other extensive eruption or disease of the cuticle, we cannot sanction the internal *and* external use of mercury; for, in subjects who are susceptible of its action, a degree of salivation might thereby be produced, in two or three days, as to endanger life, or at any rate seriously disturb the general health. Where a mercurial ointment, or lotion, is extensively applied to the skin, it is prudent practice to omit the calomel in Plummer's pill. As to the alterative virtues of the bitter sweet, we are inclined to consider it one of the class of medicines which a learned Professor of Physic, of Oxford, termed "chips in porridge." The decoction of the marshmallow root is the best alterative decoction with which we are acquainted; and ample experience, in private and hospital practice, justifies us in asserting, that one pint of it is equal to one gallon of the decoction of sarsaparilla, or that contemptible preparation, the *syrup* of sarsaparilla, which in fact contains no more virtue than simple syrup (sugar and water) coloured with burnt sugar; and we should suppose that no surgeon, acquainted with pharmaceutical chemistry, would prescribe such an article, unless, indeed, he was interested in its sale, a circumstance by no means uncommon in this *enlightened* age!

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## WOUNDS FROM CARELESS DISSECTION OF DEAD BODIES.

The cases of irritative fever, from wounds of a finger, during the dissection of a dead body, and even of its fatal termination, very frequently occur among the pupils of the hospitals of this metropolis; and it is worthy of notice, that when it is produced by absorption of *putrid* matter, the fever is generally similar to that termed *typhus*; and yet the bodies of those who have fallen a sacrifice to the disease, resist the putrefactive process much longer than those who die of other fevers, at least so says Mr. Abernethy and other anatomists. Frequent as

the occurrence of irritative fever, from absorption of matter of dead bodies, has been, we are not aware of any case having been published, or of any specific or peculiar mode of treatment having been agreed on by the hospital surgeons or physicians, to whose care they generally fall. Dr. Anthony Todd Thompson, who is, we believe, favourably known to the profession as the author of "The London Dispensatory, a Conspectus of the Pharmacopœia," and having philosophically gone through the irritative fever "arising from a scratch received in a *morbid* dissection," has favored the profession with a "detailed account of the case."

The Doctor very properly prefacing his detailed account of his own case, by a brief statement of that which terminated the life of the patient, during the dissection of whose body he met with the accident. The disease of the patient, at the time he saw her, was *pleurisy*, but says he, "as her *friends* informed me, HER head had been previously the seat of the disease, and it was only when the pain left the head, that the pleura became affected," (or that she became sensible of it) "I concluded that the disease was rheumatism, and that her dissolution was to be attributed to the *metastasis* (translation) which sometimes occurs in the acute form of that complaint."!—The vein of the arm, which had been opened previously to the Doctor's first visit, was in an inflamed state, to relieve which "the arm had been poulticed, and kept cool by an *evaporating* lotion." She had been delirious "the night before the day in which he saw her," but, at the time of *his* visit, she was *perfectly* collected, and continued so to the moment of her death. The Doctor first found her in a state of *extreme* danger; "and, indeed," says he, "so *hopeless* was her case, that I hesitated to use the lancet, on which alone (in *his* opinion) *any* prospect of benefit depended; for although she had been *previously* bled, both *topically* with leeches, and at the arm, *yet* (says he) the *excitement* was such, that nothing but further depletion promised even a shadow of success." (Does *excitement* **ALWAYS** indicate *general*, or even *local* plenitude, or the necessity of bleeding? Does it not *sometimes* depend on nervous irritation, which is independent of vascular action or plenitude, and is it not *sometimes* even increased by abstraction of blood?) She was bled to the amount of *twenty* ounces, and purged freely, but she died on the following day. About thirty-two hours after "her death," at half-past seven o'clock in the morning, the Doctor opened the body.

The viscera of the belly, even the liver, which in the opinion of ninety-nine physicians out of every hundred, is the *original* seat of all diseases, were *perfectly* healthy. The stomach was distended by gas. The doctor *particularly* noticed the *unimpregnated* state of the uterus, because an opinion prevails, that much of the danger arising from the wounds received in *morbid* dissections depends on *something* connected with the puerperal state, (among what class of practitioners can such a ridiculous idea prevail?) "On opening the chest the left cavity was found to contain about a *quart* of *bloody serum*. The pleura of the ribs, from the third to the seventh rib, and from the spine to about the breadth of the hand distant from the breast-bone, bore *evident* marks of violent inflammatory action *having recently* existed,

as did also the pleura of the lungs, corresponding to the above-mentioned space ; both," he says, " were covered with a *reticulated web* of coagulable (q. coagulated) lymph, but in no place did they adhere. *The greatest part of the principal lobe of the left division was turgid with blood.* There was no other appearance indicative of disease in any other part of the body."

No accident occurred to the doctor or to his assistant during the examination of the body ; but unfortunately in sewing the integuments with curved needles, the doctor received a " slight scratch on the first joint of the forefinger of the right hand, owing to the needle turning suddenly round."

Before we enter on the doctor's case, we beg to inquire why ablister, or rather blisters, were not employed ; a remedy certainly of great importance, both in pleurisy and in acute rheumatism ; and also if the appearance on dissection justified a further abstraction of blood when the doctor first saw her, and whether the effusion of bloody serum had not taken place at that time, and if so, whether it indicated or contra-indicated the use of the lancet. We find on reperusing the doctor's narrative of the patient's case, that we have omitted an *important* part, viz. that she had been "labouring for ten days under a *severe* inflammatory affection." Now was not effusion likely to have taken place, during the last three or four days of that time, in a case of *severe* inflammation of the pleura ?

The Doctor has omitted to notice the most important part of the case, viz. the *effects* of the bleeding and free purging, and the appearances the blood exhibited. He found her in a state of excitement one day, and the following day the body was defunct. If a patient affected with pleurisy be in such a state of excitement as to render bleeding and free purging necessary, it appears to us most strange that her case should be declared "hopeless" on the first visit. What were the symptoms which warranted such inference in a case of pleurisy, and yet to render abstraction of *twenty ounces* of blood and free purging necessary ? We certainly never met with a case so obscurely related in the whole course of our reading. The Doctor, in narrating *his own case*, has condescended to be more prolix ; it was indeed too *interesting* to *HIM* to overlook the slightest occurrence. In giving it we shall deviate from our usual custom of condensation and omission of unconnected matter, and shall make our remarks in parenthesis on the parts worthy of notice as they occur ; and this we think due to a doctor who has edited a medical Review, and published three or four works for the *edification* of the *medical profession*.

" The wound was so slight that I paid no attention to it at the time it occurred ; nor was it sufficient to attract *my* notice until the evening, twelve hours afterwards, when it excited a slight degree of pain and appeared a little inflamed. The pain, however, increased towards bed-time ; awoke me after I had been asleep two hours only ; kept me awake the rest of the night, and was accompanied with very profuse perspiration. In the morning the finger was considerably inflamed, and a small white spot appeared in the centre of the scratch, from which, on opening it with the point of a lancet, I squeezed a *globule* of pus. The finger was so much relieved after this

slight operation, that *I* regarded the wound unworthy of farther notice; but, during my professional visits in the forenoon, *I* was attacked with rigors; my strength gradually failed, and my system became evidently under the influence of incipient fever. *I*, nevertheless, continued my visits, although *I* was, at length, scarcely able to ascend a stair; and, on returning home at two o'clock in the afternoon, *I* fainted as *I* was giving my orders to my assistant; but being laid upon a sofa, *I* soon revived, and became sensible of the nature of my ALARMING condition.

“ Although my mind was weakened by the state of my body, *I* was sufficiently collected to reflect, that as extreme prostration of strength was the most marked symptom of my attack, the best method of meeting it was to attempt to rouse the nervous energy, and, at the same time, to clear out the bowels: *I* therefore ordered for myself a mixture containing camphor, ammonia, and wine of colchicum; and had taken two doses of it before my friend Dr. Granville, who had been sent for on the occasion, arrived. *I* could not convey a more accurate idea of my sensations to the Doctor, than by comparing them to those which are said to result from the bite of a *Cobra di capella*, or other venomous serpent; or to those which *I* had once heard described by a person who had taken an overdose of Prussic acid. The debility, besides being excessive, was accompanied by such a feeling as *I* conceive must attend the approach of death, at the close of a disease of debility. The respiration was laborious, and accompanied by an acute pain under the xiphoid cartilage, extending to a short distance along the breast-bone; while the pulse was quick, vacillating, and struggling, with occasional hard throbs, ‘which,’ to use Dr. Granville’s words, ‘would have authorised bleeding in the hands of an inexperienced practitioner.’

[Did not a quick pulse, with occasional hard throbs, acute pain under the xiphoid cartilage, and laborious breathing, as much indicate the propriety of abstraction of blood as “excitement” did in the case of pleurisy of ten days’ standing? a quick pulse assuredly is the leading character of excitement, and the occasional throbbing was a proof that the system would bear depletion. As to debility, was it not indirect rather than direct?

The mixture of camphor, ammonia, and *colchicum* having been prescribed by himself to “rouse the nervous energy,” we beg to ask on what “principle” (a word to which he is very partial) he ordered *colchicum*, an article which has uniformly an opposite effect, a small dose having so reduced the nervous energy, in a weakly subject, as to terminate life?

As Dr. Granville has thought proper to hazard an opinion of the treatment an inexperienced practitioner would have been led to adopt from certain symptoms, perhaps he will, in some future communication, inform us WHERE he obtained his experience.]

“ Dr. Granville concurred in the PRINCIPLE which had guided me in prescribing for myself, (a matter of course,) but disapproved of the *colchicum*: and instead of the mixture which *I* was taking, ordered for me a bolus composed of three grains of camphor, and four grains of Cayenne pepper; and as my extremities were cold, the entire surface of the body pale, and the features shrunk and cadaverous, he directed the feet to be bathed in hot water previous to my being conveyed to bed. The prostration of strength was, however, so great, that this could be effected only whilst *I* remained in the recumbent posture, in which position, also, my clothes were obliged to be taken off.”

[Was this state of system the *effect* of the irritative fever, or the alarmed state of the mind? To us it appears to have been mental only, and this idea is confirmed by the *quick* vacillating pulse and *occasional* hard throbs. No men possess less philosophy, on the occurrence of unfavourable symptoms in *their own* cases, than medical men: even a symptom, which would be too trifling to notice in a patient, is "*confirmation strong*" of some impending or approaching danger. What is still very creditable to the *majority* of the profession, they very rarely venture to take medicine, lest they might do harm, especially calomel and the active articles of the vegetable and mineral kingdoms, although they have been in the daily habit of prescribing them for others. The late Dr. Curry, it is true, adopted his system in his own case; but when he found his days were drawing to a close, he acknowledged his error, and would have given all his worldly possessions to have cleared his body of mercury. The vital powers, however, continued to give way, and, like the philosophic physicians, Brown and Darwin, he fell a victim to his own theory!!]

"The wounded finger was poulticed.

"The bolus, which was repeated, and the warm water to the feet, produced that *reaction* which was expected, and *I* obtained some sleep during the night. On the following day the pulse was upwards of 130, but *small*; the skin *hot* and *dry*; and there was some degree of *delirium*; but these symptoms, as well as the pain under the xiphoid cartilage, which was still felt, although in an inferior degree, in the morning of this day, subsided, as the *bowels* were *freely opened* by a calomel bolus and a brisk purgative, composed of a scruple of jalap and half a drachm of supertartrate of potass, which Dr. Granville had prescribed. The pain of the finger, which was now swelled, stiff, and inflamed, was less severe than *I* anticipated; but it extended up the arm, and was slightly felt in the axilla. An *evaporating* lotion was substituted for the poultice; and *three grains* of James's powder(!!!) were ordered this evening, in combination with four of extract of henbane, instead of the Cayenne pepper. *I* slept better this night; and, by continuing the use of the pills, and *maintaining the full action of the bowels for the three following days*, *I* was so much relieved as to be able to sit up for a few hours, and to take a little nourishment on the fifth day; and, on the sixth, *I* considered myself out of all danger."

[Do not the effects of purging prove satisfactorily that the "*inexperienced*" practitioner would not have done mischief, but rather have accelerated the Doctor's recovery, by abstracting blood?]

"The pain of the finger, which had hitherto given *me* but little uneasiness, began now to be excruciating; and notwithstanding the use of warm fomentations and poultices, increased to a degree which was almost insupportable. The seat of pain, however, was not the wounded part; but nearly an inch above it, in the second phalanx of the finger. *My* friend Mr. Brodie saw *me* late in the evening, in conjunction with Dr. Granville; and as it was supposed that suppuration had begun under the fascia, it was determined to lay it open by a free incision down to the bone, which was accordingly done by Mr. Brodie; and the hand was afterwards exposed to the influence of the steam of boiling water. Scarcely more pus than was sufficient to cover the point of the lancet was evacuated; but by continuing the steaming, at intervals, for several days, the part suppurated freely, and *my* recovery was completed. At the end of ten days *I* was again able to renew *my* professional avocations, although some weeks elapsed before the debility in which *I* was left

by the disease was entirely overcome. I ought to mention that the middle finger of my left hand, on which a *small morsel* of the cuticle close to the nail was separated, forming what is *vulgarly* termed 'a hang nail,' became inflamed, suppurated, and cast the nail."

[Do not these facts prove that the disturbance of the system was inflammatory, and would not the early abstraction of blood have prevented the second inflammation of the finger and the formation of matter under the fascia?

The great attention the Doctor (the patient) paid to every minute of this highly interesting case (to himself), has enabled him to deduce many conclusions; and having no doubt availed himself of the observations of the experienced Dr. Granville and the philosophical experimentalist Mr. Brodie, we shall notice them in the same manner as we have his truly affecting case (to himself), for the *benefit*, or *otherwise*, of those who may be so unfortunate as to be similarly afflicted from the same cause.]

"1st, It is evident that diseases of an *inflammatory* nature, affecting the *serous membranes*, even when *unconnected with the puerperal state*(!!), generate a *virus*, which *continues active* for some time after the death of the individual; and is capable, when introduced into the *living system* by inoculation, of exciting a *dangerous degree* of *irritative fever*."

[This piece of theory would be too contemptible for comment from any other person than a *physician* who has officiated as a reviewer of medical productions. Will any surgeon say that the matter conveyed by the needle, or that which might have been on the part at the time it was scratched, has been influenced, or rendered virulent, by the inflammation which had existed in the pleura, or, as the learned Doctor terms it, the "*serous membrane*?" We have known similar effects to have been produced by inoculation with the serum of blood from a healthy person, by Dr. G. Pearson; as to the "*virus generated by an inflammation of a serous membrane*" continuing active for some time after death, it is well known, that the longer the person has been dead, the greater danger of inoculation by it, not from the "*virus*" remaining active, but from the process of decomposition that takes place; and, as the learned Doctor met with the accident when he was sewing the *skin of the belly*, in which the process takes place sooner than any other part of the body, often exhibiting a gangrenous appearance in twenty hours, we have no hesitation in asserting that "*this said generated virus*" was the blood or serum of the skin in a decomposing state.]

"2d, It is *probable*, however, that a *certain* predisposition of the body of the dissector may be necessary for the production of this effect. In *my own case*, *my* health was not in the best state at the time of *my* receiving the scratch, as *I* had been previously much harassed both in body and mind, by the extent and nature of *my* professional duties."

[Is it not more than probable, that a *certain* predisposition is necessary to render the body susceptible of all morbid actions? if not, how are we to account for the partial occurrence of epidemics and operation of contagious effluvia; and why is not every person, who wounds a finger during dissection of a dead body, (so common an occurrence, that it is uniformly disregarded at the time; and, as to "chops," or broken cuticle of a finger, we may venture to say, that not one in

four hundred of the pupils at any hospital daily engaged in dissection of dead bodies, is entirely free from one or the other,) subject to the irritative fever?]

“3d, That the effect of the introduction of *this virus* (!!) into wounds, or chops, or abrasions of the cuticle of the hands in dissection, is *local* inflammation and the *production of a similar virus* in the part, which, being absorbed into the system, *diminishes so GREATLY the nervous energy, as nearly to destroy the action of the heart*; and, thence, to produce *congestions in the vascular TRUNKS highly detrimental to the powers of life, and which prove not unfrequently fatal.*”

[This precious piece of theory most satisfactorily explains all the *phenomena* of irritative fever. The *virus* generated by inflammation of a serous membrane, first inflames the wounded part, when it, like the inflamed serous membrane, generates more *virus*, which, “being absorbed into the system,” produces a *contrary effect*; for, instead of exciting inflammatory action, it so considerably diminishes the nervous energy, as nearly to destroy the action of the heart, and thence to produce *congestions* in the vascular trunks (a silly pedantic term for blood vessels;—why not say, arterial or venous congestion, and whether the congestion is active or passive?) Notwithstanding the debilitating effects on the nervous system, the learned Doctor terms the fever *irritative*; and, although the pulse was *quick*, which indicates *increased* nervous energy, (for there is a great difference between a *quick* contraction of an artery and a *frequent* pulse) and although there was *acute* pain under the cartilage of the lower extremity of the breast-bone, (which was, no doubt, inflammatory,) yet the effect of the supposed “*virus*” was a *dangerous diminution* of nervous energy!!! In the whole course of our reading, we never met with such contemptible trash, not even in the works of Doctor Solomon, Doctor Eady, or Doctors Jordan and Co. In the cases we have witnessed, the inflammation, more or less, rapidly extended up absorbent vessels of the arm, and to the axillary gland; and, probably, it is this inflammation only that disturbs the system, when predisposed to febrile action; for, when no fever ensues, the inflammation of the absorbents soon subsides.]

“If these corollaries be correct, two questions of great importance present themselves for consideration:—1st, In what manner, independent of care in avoiding wounds, is the influence of this *virus* to be guarded against in dissection? 2d, When inoculation has taken place, what plan of treatment is likely to prove most beneficial in overcoming the disease which follows?”

[The doctor, having no doubt of his conclusions being correct, or of his competency to answer his questions of great importance, proceeds:]

“In considering the first query, it is obvious, that *no* description of gloves nor *any* coverings for the hands of a *similar* nature, can be employed by the dissector; but I am of opinion, that the hands, if chopped or abraded, might be protected by rubbing them over with oil. It is a well-known fact, that the oil coolies at Tunis are rendered insusceptible of the contagion of plague owing to their *bodies* being constantly covered with oil, which can be explained *only* on the principle of non-contact; and as oil is impermeable by watery fluids, the probability is, that it would secure the *chopped* or *abraded hands* of the anatomist, in *morbid* dissections, on the same principle,

But it cannot secure him from being wounded either by the scalpel, the needle, or the edges of fractured or of carious bones, or from the consequent inoculation; and thence the necessity of the second query."

[A very satisfactory answer indeed to the first question, and points out certainly the necessity of the second query.

With respect to the plague, it has been found to spread in large towns in the direction of the air,—a proof, if any were wanted of its being contagious; and if the infection be conveyed by the air, it is reasonable to suppose that it enters the system by the lungs and not by the skin; and this idea is strengthened by the fact, that the vapour of turpentine, when inhaled, enters the circulation, and in a few minutes affects the urine. When the plague raged in London, the air passed through some streets without affecting one person in them, because their systems were not predisposed to disorder or unsusceptible of its action; and it affected others who had no communication with those that were under its influence; and, consequently, it was not commenced by contact of skin. Now, as we have never heard of a person being affected by absorption, whose cuticle was sound and not scratched, cut or punctured, what advantage can arise from an application of oil to the skin, if it affords no security in case of a wound? And as to its protecting chops against the action of the supposed virus, because it is watery, can he or any other great anatomist, physiologist or pathologist say, that decomposing or putrid fat will not produce the same mischief? The learned doctor thus answers his second important query.]

"The wounds which are received in morbid dissections are seldom deep, and most frequently do not penetrate through the true skin. When this is the case, perhaps the most certain mode of preventing the threatened evil would be, instantly to cut out the portion of wounded skin with a CLEAN scalpel, (not the scalpel employed in the dissection !!) and to encourage a flow of blood by bathing it with warm water."

[If the part be cut out before it has had time to "generate more virus!" or before absorption has taken place, what benefit can possibly arise from "encouraging a flow of blood" by bathing the part with warm water? If the person be of a plethoric habit, it can certainly do no harm; but if he be weakly or of a leucophlegmatic habit, it would be ridiculous, as the fever does not follow once in five hundred cases of such accidents. We suspect, few pupils engaged in the dissection-rooms, will follow the advice of excision, although it comes from a practitioner who is or has been capable of discharging the duties of a critic.]

"Sometimes, however, scratches are received unconsciously, owing to the attention of the dissector being deeply engaged in the investigation of his subject; and the first notice he receives of the injury is from the local inflammation of the wounded part. It is then too late to have recourse to excision: what mode of treatment, therefore, should be adopted? Were I to reason from my own case only, I might consider it sufficient to refer to the treatment which it details; but the Profession has been instructed by experience not to depend upon the result of single cases. If the view, however, which has been given of the nature of the attack be correct—if the first effect of the absorption of the virus be to diminish the nervous energy, and, by thus weakening the moving powers of the blood, to permit congestions in

the trunks of the vascular system,—it is evident, that unless the *balance* of the circulation be restored, the functions of life cannot be continued."

[This reasoning is much too profound for our comprehension. The *congestion* of the trunks of the *vascular* system, and the restoration of the *balance* of the circulation!! By the *trunks* of the *vascular* system, we confess, we should suppose the learned doctor meant the aorta, its ascending and descending portions; but, surely, this great physiologist or pathologist cannot be so ignorant of the state of the sanguiferous system, in cases of death, as not to know that they are *never* found in a state of *congestion*. We almost fancy we hear the doctor's friends, the *experienced* Dr. Granville, the *philosophical* Mr. Brodie, the Cambridge Dr. Ainslie, unanimously exclaim, Pray do not so frequently interrupt the learned doctor in *his* answers to *his own* queries: well, well, we will comply, hoping that they will not be offended by the introduction of a few marks of *admiration*.]

"Reaction may take place by the *powers* of the *habit*; or the *congestion* *may be removed* by *bleeding* (!!); or it *may be overcome* by *reaction* induced by rousing the nervous system by *artificial stimuli*, as in the case *before us*. (!!.) If we trust to the *powers* of the *habit*, it is *impossible* to calculate upon the *consequences*; the *resulting fever* *may be sufficient to endanger life*; (ah! there's the rub); a cause of debility or *organic mischief* *may occur*, which would ultimately destroy it; and it is *unnecessary*, THEREFORE, to *reason* upon the *probable effects* of the *vis medicatrix* in cases of this description. (!!.) It only remains, therefore, to estimate the *comparative advantages* of *bleeding* and of *stimuli*. The opening a *vein* in the arm will undoubtedly relieve *congestions* in the *vascular trunks* within the *thorax and abdomen*; but if these *congestions* have arisen from the nervous *energy being diminished*, by the introduction into the *habit* of a *virus* operating as a *powerful sedative*, it *may be doubtful* whether, after they have been *thus relieved*, the *balance* of the circulation will be *maintained*. (!!.) If the *moving power* of the *vascular system* depends on *nervous energy*, (if, indeed!) the mere unloading the *great vascular trunks*, in which the *blood* has accumulated from the *action* of the *heart* being unequal to *propel it onwards*, owing to a *paralysis*, as it were, of the *nerves*, is not likely to restore that power; and, therefore, we must conclude, that the *lancet* is *less efficient* than *stimuli*, which are calculated to rouse and maintain the nervous *energy*."

[If the *great vascular trunks* of the *thorax* (chest) and of the *abdomen* (belly), by which the doctor means the *ascending and descending aorta*, be overloaded by *blood*, in consequence of the *action* of the *heart* being *reduced*, how can they possibly be relieved by opening a *vein* in the arm? According to the learned doctor's idea, the *congestion* is of the *chief trunks* of the *arterial system*, and, we suppose, could only be relieved by opening an *artery*. If these vessels were really overloaded in the doctor's case, (an instance of which we never heard of,) how can he, learned as we are willing to allow him to be, account for the *quickness* of the *pulse*? Quickness assuredly indicates a *too rapid transmission* of *blood* through the *arterial system*; and surely this could not have happened if the *vascular trunks* were in a *state of congestion*.]

"The *result* of the *practice* which has been *generally employed* in these cases, might be brought forward to determine the *question*; but the *records* of it are *too scanty* to admit of a *satisfactory inference* being drawn from it.

In my own case, in which there was evidently no injury either to a *nerve* or a *vein*, the *beneficial* effects of the *stimulating* plan, in the first instance, followed by active purgation, was decisive; and my friend, Dr. Granville, to whose *skill*, *judgment*, and *kind attention*, I attribute my recovery, has found it equally so in *several* cases which have since occurred, and come under his care. It is, at all events, worthy of being *tried* by the *test* of *experience*."

[Doctor Granville, for ought we know, may be in some cases a *skillful* and *judicious* practitioner, and that he is a friend to the doctor, and the doctor to him, (for, without this little addition, there is little *friendship* among *certain* practitioners); but, whether the practice he adopted was *stimulating* or otherwise, we have our doubts; or whether it proved more *beneficial* than the mixture of *camphor*, *ammonia*, and *colchicum*, would have proved, (which the doctor had adopted previously to Dr. G.'s *friendly* visit,) we may, perhaps, be allowed to entertain a doubt. Doctor Granville is, we understand, an Italian; and, in Italy, the *cayenne pepper* and the *black pepper* are considered *direct sedatives*; and certain it is, that, although they stimulate the *skin* and the *palate*, they allay irritation in the *stomach* and *intestines*; and, in *tropical climates*, the *natives* and *Europeans* take *cayenne pepper* to *cool* the *body*, and we have frequently observed the action of the *pulse* to be reduced by it, which we have attributed to its increasing the *circulation* in the *stomach*, *intestines*, and *viscera* of the *belly*, in consequence of which there is less blood thrown to the *surface*; but, in case of *inflammatory piles*, or *irritative* affections of the *rectum*, or even as a *topical application* to active *inflammation* of the *tonsils*, *cayenne pepper* often succeeds in curing the disease. In the case of Dr. Thompson, the *cayenne pepper* certainly did not manifest any thing like a *stimulating* effect, and his recovery was evidently accelerated by *copious purging*, which we should suppose was not likely to invigorate the system of a *very debilitated* nervous subject. As to *camphor*, it is generally supposed, by the profession, to be capable of allaying nervous irritation, instead of increasing nervous energy; and, with this view, it is very frequently prescribed in cases of *inflammatory* and *irritative fevers*.

The doctor closes his communication with what he considers "a *curious physiological fact*," of which he acknowledges (even with the assistance of his *friends*, the *experienced* Dr. Granville, and the *philosophical experimentalist*, Mr. Brodie, of which (of course he *availed himself*) he has hitherto not been able to obtain any *satisfactory explanation*. "The *cuticle* of the *finger*, which was *scratched* in the *dissection*, having separated, owing to the *inflammation*, and the *use* of the *steam-bath* (so often recommended by the most *experienced* *surgeons*, to check or disperse *inflammation*!!) a great *increase* of *sensitivity* followed, and along with this, an *extraordinary* idea of *extension* was communicated; thus," says he, "in touching my *skin* and my *hair*, each *hair* felt like a *rope* in *magnitude*, and the minute, and *almost invisible fissures* of the *skin*, became *obvious*, and *highly perceptible* to the *touch*;" and as for the size of his *head*, it appeared of course as large as the *dome* of St. Paul's *Cathedral*, and his *skull* as thick as the *thickest stone wall* in *Europe*. Although the doctor supposed

the nervous system was in a state of great and alarming debility, the *increased sensibility* of the nerves, which conveyed sensation from the part deprived of cuticle, to *his* sensorium, he says, admits of *easy explanation*; but, adds the doctor, “ in what manner are we to account for the idea of *increased extension?* ” !!! Is the doctor unacquainted with Haller’s physiology of the nerves, and the effects of denuded papillæ of the nerves of the skin? If the papillæ be exposed by the removal of the *cuticle*, the nerves, of which they are the extremities, become disordered; and the impression not being received through the medium of the cuticle, a false sensation is communicated to the sensorium; and this phenomenon, in our opinion, admits of as clear an explanation as the *increased sensibility* of nerves in a person whose nervous system is in an *alarming state of debility*, which, to the doctor, is not mysterious.

## CANCER.

The Medical Society of London, in conformity with the will of the late Dr. Anthony Fothergill, offers the annual gold medal, value twenty guineas, for the best dissertation on cancer, for which the learned of all countries are invited as candidates, under the following regulations:

“ Each dissertation must be delivered to the registrar, in the Latin or English language, on or before the first of December next,” (why not in the French, Italian, or German language, or, in compliment to the College of Physicians, the Greek, Hebrew, or Celtic? If all the members are not acquainted with these languages; the *president*, who has lately made such a surprising dash in *animal philosophy*, “ natural and morbid,” has doubtless attended to the cultivation of his “ *organ of languages*,” of which his *craniological* character is very prominent. If he should be at any loss, Squire Curtis, one of the members, no less celebrated for his auricular characters, will no doubt readily assist him, as we learn, from some of his patients, he reads the works of Hippocrates, Celsus, Galen, and Avicecenna in their original languages ! !)

“ With it must be delivered a sealed packet, with some motto or device on the outside, and within the author’s name and designation; and the same motto or device must be put on the dissertation, that the society may know how to address the successful candidate.” (If the dissertation be written by a foreigner on the continent, how is the learned president to know whether it is in his own hand-writing or not?)

“ No paper in the hand-writing of the author, or with his name affixed, *can be received*; and if the author of any paper shall, directly or indirectly, discover himself to the Committee of Papers, or to any member thereof, such paper will be excluded from all competition for the medal.

Mr. Farr has lately published a second edition of his work on cancer, entitled “ A Treatise, explanatory of a method whereby Occult Cancer may be cured, together with Observations and Practical Directions for its Treatment in the Ulcerative State;” by which it appears that he continues to prescribe the Corsican moss (fucus

helminthochorton) with great success, not only in cases of true schirrus, but also with advantage (in conjunction with sedative and other medicines, which the state of stomach and the general health indicates) when it has advanced to ulceration or open cancer. Mr. Farr expresses his regret that, although the first edition of his work was published three years since, not one member of the profession has given him the least hint or assistance, "which," says he, is the most astonishing when I consider I have the testimony of some under their own hands, who conducted the cases of their patients on the plan which I advised, with avowed advantage and acknowledged diminution of disease, and yet these gentlemen have displayed the same apathy with others who were not convinced of the possibility of benefit." Mr. Farr has been at a total loss to discover a cause for this apathy. To us it is very clear. Some practitioners suppose that an article which apparently communicates very little, if any thing to water, and that little is only mucilage, cannot act beneficially on so formidable a disease as cancer. This we allow is an erroneous deduction, because the *little* may have a *great* specific action on a morbid production, which possesses a peculiar vitality. The Corsican moss has been long held in great estimation as a remedy for intestinal worms; and if it be capable of poisoning them, surely it may prove beneficial in cases of scirrus, by destroying the vitality, so that the absorbents may be equal to the removal of the diseased accumulation. Another reason is, few surgeons of hospitals, or in extensive practice, will attend to the suggestions or recommendation of members of the profession who are not of the same rank as themselves. The opinions of the immortal John Hunter were ridiculed by the leading surgeons of his day, but they prevailed, as truth sooner or later always does, and he is now considered the father of modern surgery, morbid anatomy, and physiology. Another reason is, few surgeons or physicians will recommend a remedy (although they know they can render the patient little service by their own treatment) which is likely to operate against their fee trade; for they are aware that if they recommend the fucus, the patients will be very likely to place themselves under the care of the gentleman who introduced it. It is on this account all philosophical remedies are neglected by sordid practitioners, as electricity, galvanism, oxygen, &c. &c.

We are not of opinion that cancer is a disease dependant on a vitiated state of the fluids of the body, or morbid condition of the blood; but we believe that there is a peculiar condition of body, which favours the production of parasytes, as worms, vermin, encysted tumours, hydatids, warts, &c.; and in such persons at a certain period of life, when the fibres of the body become rigid, schirrous tumours form. Does the fucus act beneficially by correcting this verminous predisposition of the body?

About three months since, a lady consulted us respecting a schirrous tumour on the left breast, in which the process of decomposition had evidently commenced; the skin, in one part, being inflamed, with a perceptible fluid beneath it, attended with acute, shooting, or lancinating pains. Her general health was very bad, her constitution leucophlegmatic, and her countenance pale and dejected.

told us, that some eminent surgeons of London, whom she had consulted, advised immediate amputation of her whole breast. The disease bordering on open cancer, we advised her to submit to the operation. After a little conversation, she agreed to follow our advice, on the condition of our giving a treatment we had found to succeed in a case, with which she was acquainted, a fair trial. As it was more likely to retard than accelerate ulceration, we agreed to adopt it, except the abstraction of blood from the part twice a week by leeches, which the state of her general health contra-indicated. We applied over the diseased part a plaster of the ointment of belladonna, prussiate of mercury, &c. of that very useful practical work, the new Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, page 161. In the course of three days, the tumour was entirely free from pain. In three weeks it had considerably decreased in size, and in about two months it was reduced from the size of a large pear to that of a walnut; and when we saw it a week ago, it was of the size of a small nut. The skin, which was inflamed, was of its natural colour, and there was no fluid under it. Her general health had been greatly improved by the solution of muriate of iron. In our next number, we have no doubt, from the gradual manner in which the tumour has decreased, of being able to say, that it has entirely disappeared, after being condemned to the knife by five eminent surgeons. The patient is about 56 years of age, and the disease was certainly true schirrhous, or occult cancer.

A Mr. Leaubon states, that if a cancerous ulcer be washed every day, or twice a day, with a solution of common salt, it will not emit an offensive odour. Charcoal powder, sprinkled over the surface, is a better corrector of foetor.

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## CHEMISTRY, THERAPEUTICS, &c.

### TARTAR EMETIC OINTMENT.

We have much pleasure in inserting the following remarks on this ointment, by Dr. Carter, of Canterbury, from the conviction, that being founded on the results of extensive experience of a physician of correct observation, or, as Dr. Uwins would say, "of philosophical acumen, and great grasp of mind," they will induce our medical readers to give it the trial it unquestionably merits, in those cases where local inflammation, or a derivative irritant is required.

"When I have," says Dr. Carter, "given a remedy a fair trial, and have satisfied myself that it is, upon the whole, an useful one in any particular disease, I am accustomed to adhere to it, even if it be treated with neglect by other practitioners. Still, however, if it be approved of, and adopted by intelligent medical men, I feel better satisfied. My opinion of the tartar-emetic ointment, therefore, is fortified by Mr. Crighton's paper respecting its use in epilepsy. His experiments were, it seems, instituted in July, 1822, at the Foundling Hospital, in Dublin, and, in consequence, as he says, of Dr. Jenner's statement of the success he had met with from its employment in several analogous complaints. The first case of epilepsy in which I found the ointment useful, was that of George Turner; and when I published

the history of his case, I imagined that the remedy, in its application to that disease, was a new one. I willingly, however, acknowledge that I was anticipated by Mr. Crighton—the more willingly, as he was led by analogy to employ it in epilepsy; whereas I discovered its power over that malady, by accident; for, as was stated in my communication, I exhibited it, in Turner's case, principally with a view to a disorder of chest, under which he at that time laboured. I hope that Mr. Crighton will hereafter furnish us with additional evidence of the efficacy of this ointment. In the mean time, I beg to observe, that the patient, Turner, has not had a fit since January 18, 1824. A discharge is still maintained by the ointment; and when there have been indications of an approaching attack, he has been briskly purged, and leeches have been applied to the anus. In the case of Charlotte Howland, who had been the subject of epilepsy for twelve years, and who used the ointment for several months at intervals, there was no fit for fourteen months. The use of the tartar emetic was discontinued for some time previously to her being discharged from the hospital. In two other cases, the same application failed to remove the disease, but the attacks became less frequent.

“When using the tartar-emetic ointment, in epileptic cases, I have not desisted upon the eruption taking place, but have generally directed a piece of linen, spread with it, to be applied to the part, when it could no longer be rubbed in; and when, owing to the burning heat and pain, this application could not be borne, fomentations and poultices have been resorted to, and afterwards the ointment has been resumed, from time to time, so as to keep up a drain for many weeks. The tendency of the eruption to spread beyond the limits of the anointed part should be constantly kept in view. The ointment should not be rubbed over a large space. Mr. Crighton has noticed this tendency, and states that the eruption most frequently appears in very remote parts. I cannot say that I have observed this generally to be the case; and yet once I saw, from the application of the ointment to the chest, a most copious pustular eruption upon the scrotum, while other parts of the body were unaffected. It may be worth while to remark, that in one instance sickness followed the use of the ointment, when it was discontinued, and the sickness recurred, as soon as the remedy was resumed.”

The local effects of this ointment depend on the irritability of the skin; and, when the skin is in a languid state, it sometimes does not excite a sufficient degree of inflammation as to produce eruptions for many days. When the first application fails to occasion inflammation, the ointment may be quickened, by an addition of a few drops of the liquor of muriate of antimony, commonly called butter of antimony. The muriate of antimony is much more efficacious in producing eruptions than that of the tartarised antimony (emetic tartar); and, when it is desirable speedily to produce eruptions, as in cases of acute inflammation of an internal part, this should be preferred. It is made by rubbing the solution of the muriate of antimony, (from forty drops to sixty drops) with hog's lard, softened by a little olive oil (one ounce).

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## THE GASTRIC, OR STOMACH ACID.

Although the acid which forms in the stomach has, for many years, attracted the attention of physicians well acquainted with chemistry, a variety of opinion exists as to its nature and source. Mr. Parkinson, a scientific surgeon-apothecary, about twenty years ago, (in a *Treatise on Gout*,) stated his opinion, that it is acetic acid (vinegar), and that it is the cause of gout; and, of course, an alcali, as soda, by neutralizing it, is a certain chemical remedy. A French chemist, after examining it *chemically*, declared it was muriatic acid. Dr. Robert James Graves, a scientific physician of Dublin, having a patient under his care in the Hospital of Incurables, who was sometimes in the habit of vomiting a pint of acid matter at a time, took the opportunity of examining it, and, after many chemical experiments, pronounced it to be the lactic acid (milk acid). Different acids, however, have been discovered in the contents of the stomach. When a person, intoxicated by ale or wine, vomits, he brings up a considerable quantity of acid matter, which is unquestionably the acetic acid (vinegar). Considering the quantity of culinary salt (muriate of soda) which is taken at a meal, it is not surprising that a chemist should discover muriatic acid, on examining the salts which he obtained from evaporation of the filtered contents of the stomach; and when we consider that all meat, especially veal and pork, contain a saccharine matter similar to that of milk, it is not unreasonable to expect to find the lactic acid, which is very similar to the acetic. There is also an acid from the fat of meat, (sebacid acid) which is sometimes so powerful as to inflame the throat and soft palate on being vomited.

In a late number of this work, we have noticed a case of a gouty gentleman, who, during his passage from Calais to Dover, vomited a pint of a thin clear fluid, which was powerfully acid, about an hour after he had completely emptied his stomach by violent vomiting. He had, about half an hour previously to this acid vomiting, strained violently, and brought up only a little brandy and water he had taken to allay the distressing nausea. He then slept for half an hour, and, on awaking, brought up the acid. The stomach being evidently empty at the time he fell asleep, the acid fluid must have been a morbid secretion of the inner surface, or of the gastric juice. This is, we conceive, the *true gastric acid*, and not that which forms from imperfect digestion, or fermentation of vegetable or animal matter. Gouty invalids are very subject to this acid; and females, during pregnancy, have vomited it in considerable quantity a short time after having completely emptied the stomach; and we have known a pregnant lady to continue vomiting it, after short intervals, for three days, during which time she took nothing, except spring water; so that the acid fluid was clearly a morbid secretion, and not the product of fermentation of food. It has been observed, that when a healthy person vomits a short time after taking a meal, the contents of the stomach are acid; and others, finding that chyme is always more or less acid, have supposed that the gastric juice is a peculiar acid: but if this were the case, an alcali, by neutralizing it, would prevent digestion, whereas an alcali often promotes it. The secretion of the

gastric glands, when they are in a state of excessive irritation, which is generally the case in gouty subjects, is of course more or less morbid, and probably this is the source of the true gastric acid; and as it is an animal acid, it is very likely to be the same as that obtained from stale milk, termed lactic acid.

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### SARSA PARILLA.

In a foreign journal, Galileo Palatta has given an account of the results of his chemical examination of sarsaparilla root, by which it seems he has discovered a peculiar alcali, in which its medicinal virtues reside, and to which the name of pariglina is given. Dr. Macleod, who superintended the same processes by a chemist in London, says, that half a pound of the root yielded so small a quantity of this alcali, that "it required a magnifying glass to satisfy him of its existence"!!!

In no article of the *materia medica* has so much quackery been carried on, under the cloak of science, as in sarsaparilla. Mr. Battly, a pharmaceutical chemist, a few months since, fancied he discovered its active principle in the bark of the root, (which is generally in a *perished* state); but whether the article he detected was an alcali or an acid, he has not thought proper to state, but he ascertained *satisfactorily to himself* that it was imparted to lime water! So that if half a pound of the root affords only about the twentieth part of a grain of this said active principle, a patient must drink two gallons of the infusion of the root in lime water, to take one dose of it!! We must however do Mr. Battly the justice to say, that the lime water, in a proper dose, will prove as efficacious without the sarsaparilla as with it, and we really give him great credit for having fixed on so excellent a menstruum; but we give those physicians no credit for discernment or "*philosophical acumen*," who have been induced to prescribe the powdered bark, on the supposition of its containing the "*active principle of the root*"; and if they have fancied that they have observed any beneficial effects from it, we advise them to try what virtue there is in "*powder of post*." Why has Mr. Battly not brought forward an alcaline infusion of sarsaparilla? The syrup of sarsaparilla, three parts out of four of which is sugar, is a favourite preparation with some surgeons!! Of all the nostrums that have been advertised, no one has proved more generally injurious to the digestive organs than this article. Instead of quieting the stomach, an acid is rapidly produced which increases the irritation, interrupts digestion, and, by occasioning flatulence, and general disorder of the nervous system, it has produced disease in the substance of the stomach, or of some part of the intestinal canal. In all countries where sweet diet drinks are popular, diseased stomachs and bowels are very common. As to the *quantity* of extractive matter of the root, we have no hesitation in asserting, that a quart bottle of the syrup does not contain a dose of it, or a sufficient quantity of the pariglina, (the alcaline discovered by Galileo Palatta), to be discoverable by a magnifying glass, and yet the dose of this syrup is one or two table spoonsful!!!

The syrup of sarsaparilla, even supposing that the root contains some medicinal virtue, is so ridiculous and unscientific a preparation, that we are satisfied no surgeon acquainted with pharmacy, or indeed of making ordinary observations, would recommend it to a patient, unless he was interested in the sale of it; and really this insinuation is much strengthened by the fact of certain surgeons and physicians recommending their patient to procure it at the shops of certain druggists,—for the making of it is so very simple that any person capable of boiling water, must be as capable of making it as the most experienced scientific chemist. As long as such practices continue among regular surgeons and physicians, no man can be surprised at the flourishing state of the nostrum-trade. The article sold under the name of syrup of sarsaparilla by some druggists, we are convinced, is nothing more than sugar and water coloured with burnt sugar; for we have not been able on the nicest chemical examination, to discover any thing else in it. In our analysis of sarsaparilla, we have discovered nothing but a mucilage similar to that of gum arabic, of which a pound yields only a dose. What then can the local action of such an article be on the stomach? or what can it impart to the constitution to correct it? But putting its component parts out of the question, what says experience? Few surgeons have had greater opportunities of witnessing the effects of sarsaparilla both in hospital and private practice than ourselves; and we are frank to say, that we never met with one case of indigestion, syphilis, pseudo-syphilis, scrofula, disease of the skin, &c. or any other malady, in which it proved of any service; but many, very many cases in which it disordered the stomach; and, we are confident, if its debilitating or relaxing properties were not counteracted by the guaiac wood in the compound decoction, or by Plummer's pill, which contains genuine gum, its injurious effects would be more generally experienced. If it proves beneficial as other mucilaginous articles are supposed to do, by increasing the fibrin of the blood, a pint of the decoction of marsh-mallow root, or of barley, is equal to a gallon of the decoction of sarsaparilla, inasmuch as it contains as much mucilage. The experience some surgeons have had in practice, should have taught them that the mass of mankind is too enlightened to be duped by such a traffic, and really the public in general is too liberal in remunerating surgeons to render such contemptible meanness necessary.\*

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\* A respectable gentleman was so indignant at the mercenary conduct of a surgeon, and the insult he had offered to his understanding by ordering him the syrup of sarsaparilla (from the sale of which he had unluckily discovered he derived a profit) which had greatly disordered his stomach, that on his next visit, instead of giving him a fee of two pounds, which he had been in the habit of doing, he called him a quack, and horse-whipped him in the presence of his servants, and afterwards expressed a wish that he would give him an opportunity of publicly exposing his impositions, by prosecuting him for the assault. The gentleman, however, took the castigation so philosophically as to treat the affront as he does his fees, by pocketing it.

## MERCURIAL OINTMENT.

A respectable surgeon informs us, that he has found the mercurial ointment, made with lard slightly rancid, much stronger than that made with fresh lard; and that with it, the quicksilver is more minutely divided by tritature in a mortar in one minute, than it is with fresh lard in two hours. The ointment also enters the skin, by friction, with greater facility; and half a drachm, introduced by friction, seems to go as far as one drachm of the ointment made with fresh lard. By the tritature of quicksilver in rancid lard, the sebaceous of mercury is formed, which, like the acetate of mercury, is an active and safe preparation, and perhaps, in consequence of the mercury being combined with an animal acid, it may act more efficaciously on the system, or be more readily diffused through the body. Mr. Carmichael, an eminent surgeon of Dublin, in his Treatise on Cancer, states, that he found the phosphate of iron more efficacious in cases of debility than any other saline preparation, which he attributes to the iron being combined with an *animal acid*.

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## QUACKERY, &amp;c.

## GRANGE'S FAMILY PILLS.

Sirs,—Observing a dispute in the *Morning Chronicle*, about a fortnight since, respecting a medicine, called *Grange's Family Pills*, between two Apothecaries, and as some consider the composition a good antibilious medicine, and being the prescription of the late Dr. Warren, who, contrary to the report in the morning paper, never obtained a patent for any such thing, but merely wrote the prescription in the regular routine of practice, I have enclosed a translation of it for the information of the readers of your highly valuable book, which will in some measure set the question right, as regards who may claim the exclusive right of preparing that which every chemist has an undoubted right to do when in possession of the receipt.

Yours, &c. MEDICUS.

Take of Gamboge, 1 grain;

Compound Powder of Aloes,

Compound Extract of Bitter Apple, of each 2 grains.

The powder of aloes is to be first made into a pill with syrup, and then mixed with the other ingredients. To be divided into two pills. This quantity is a dose.

To the Editors of the *Gazette of Health*.

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## ADULTERATION OF FLOUR, &amp;c.

Sirs,—Your publication has rendered much benefit to the popular world, by exposing many of the deceptions, and much of the quackery which artful ingenuity has adopted to obtain the *arcaneum vites* for themselves and families. You no doubt remember the old Proverb,

"what is gained over the Devil's back is spent, &c. &c." and so I observe it is with most of those who acquire large incomes by sinister means, even when those methods they pursue can by sophistry be softened down to "clever hits," "good bargains," and so on; but when men trifle with the health of their fellow creatures, by the adulteration of articles of food or medicine, no punishment is adequate to their crime, and they ought to be held up to general detestation. You are a public spirited man, and I think should give us the names and residence of the wretches who have a steam engine, of an eight-horse power, constantly at work, to reduce mahogany chips to dust, for the purpose of adulterating bark, for such an establishment I learn there is in this metropolis; and it finds full employment through the agency of still more villainous vendors of this drug.

Horses, the most useful of animals, are also victims of these disgraceful practices; oats that are injured by keeping, and contain but little nourishment, are made by the arts now in use to look like new corn; and the poor animal, with half its usual quantity of nutriment, is required to perform the same quantum of labour as when the food is good: the horse falls off in strength and health, and a farrier is then consulted, who doses his patient in the same manner as too many apothecaries dose theirs, viz. with drugs of the cheapest, and consequently worst quality.

The farmer is also a prey to these plunderers; he buys fine looking seed at a fair, nay often high price—clover seed for instance; yet this beautiful sample will not grow, as probably it has visited the neighbourhood of Queenhithe, Thames Street, where there is an establishment for kiln-drying old seed, and subjecting it to the fumes of sulphur, which gives it a fine fresh appearance; this concern is well supported by the dishonest seedsmen, and, though extensive, is in constant employ. Farmers may very easily detect this, by placing some of the seed on a warm fire shovel, when the fumes of brimstone will be evident.

Bread is also, at this moment, very much adulterated with an inferior kind of pulverised gypsum, which is, I believe, brought from Wales—this is used to give weight, now that this necessary article of life is sold by the pound. An instance occurred the other day at Hull of this nefarious practice; a dissenting minister contracted with government for several hundred sacks of flour, to be sent abroad for the use of the military; either information or some suspicion was excited that all was not right; Mr. Clarke, of Apothecaries' Hall, was sent down to analyse the flour; he found a few of the front sacks were very good in quality, but the others were wholly made up of damaged peas and beans ground to flour, to which a large portion of the gypsum (plaster of Paris in powder) was added; government have I learn taken some very strong measures against this pretended religious miller or cornfactor.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

M. M.

March 25, 1825.

To the Editors of the *Gazette of Health*.

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 114.]

To JUNE 1, 1823.

[VOL. X.

## PHYSIC.

### COSTIVENESS—(continued from p. 105.)

*Management of the Bowels of Nervous Subjects.*—We have this month to thank many correspondents for having put us in mind of the “nervous temperament,” in which we agree with them, the regulation of the stomach and bowels, by simple medicines and diet, is of great importance in preventing simple local disorder or structural disease, and in securing nervous subjects against the changes in the atmosphere, and against contagious or epidemic complaints. About thirty years since it was the fashion among medical men, regular and irregular, and invalids, to term nearly all the diseases to which human nature is heir, *nervous*; and for those of the higher classes of society who had disordered their stomachs, or disturbed their general health by dissipation, to be nervous; and as long as these fashions prevailed, the legitimate physicians and the nostrum-mongers were as active in broaching new doctrines explanatory of nervous affections, and in advertising *infallible* nervous remedies, as certain legitimate physicians and licentiates in legitimate medicines and quackery of the present day, are in propagating new opinions of the use, &c. of the bile, and of the influence of hepatic or gastro-hepatic disorder, in disturbing the general health; and the promulgators of nervous theories, like the latter, by means of plausible books and by nervous cordials, (chiefly diluted spirit of wine,) succeeded in obtaining the sole object of their philanthropic publications and *scientific* discoveries—accumulation of wealth\*. These *modern* philosophers, like Solon, had no objection to wealth, they only differed as to the means of obtaining it. The wise Grecian philosopher says,

“Wealth I would have, but not *unjustly* got,  
“Lest Vengeance should pursue the guilty purchase.”

The “nervous theory of diseases” has long given way to the *bilious* doctrines of the present day, on which we have commented in our 112th Number, p. 77.

\* It is said the late Dr. Solomon, by his “justly celebrated” nostrum, the basis of which is *spirit of wine*, under the “entrapping name” of Balm of Gilead, amassed a fortune of three or four hundred thousand pounds. The late Doctor Brodum, by a similar composition, was soon enabled, by purchase, to raise himself from the humble situation of an itinerant pedlar to the rank of physician. The purchasers of these nostrums were chiefly inebriates or invalids, who had injured their constitutions by the abuse of spirituous or vinous liquors, (the baneful effects of which they were certainly well calculated to promote,) and nervous youths, whose minds had been disturbed nearly to insanity by the absurd doctrines they circulated to induce them

The partially educated physicians, who denominate themselves "legitimates," (now distinguished by men of science by the title of *irregular quacks*,) and the regular quacks; the former, by means of *practical* treatises, alias advertisement for fees, and the latter by the sale of their infallible antibilious specifics, have been as successful as the nervous doctors, in accumulating wealth; and the fee trade of the bilious doctors being rather increased than diminished by the direct advertisement of the regular quacks, they go on very smoothly together, being both equally regardless of the results of their practice, so as they succeed in making dupes. The infallible antibilious medicines of the present day, possess certain properties very similar to the nervous cordials of Solomon, Brodum, Sibly, and other *respectable* nervous physicians, viz. they cannot be taken too freely, and their virtues are increased by age, so that "wise invalids" will of course lay in a good stock; they will also both keep perfectly good in *any* climate!!!

Of the two theories, the *nervous* is more consistent than the hepatic, for the primary moving powers of the animal machine residing in the cerebral system (the brain and nerves), and the functions of all the organs being dependant on nervous influence, every disease, even those which do not originate in the nervous system, is more or less nervous, inasmuch as the nerves are more or less disordered by all; and it is not uncommon for the disorder of the nervous system to become more formidable than the primary affection, and even to continue when it has terminated. So satisfied are practitioners of experience and observation of this fact, that in the treatment of every disease, they always keep in view the state of the nervous system.

The term *nervous* is often used by authors (not medical) and by patients, to express opposite states of the body; the former sometimes meaning by it strength, and the latter debility. When medical men apply it to the body, they mean what is termed the "nervous temperament," in which the nerves are preternaturally sensible, receiving great impressions from very slight causes: but when it is applied to a local disease, it signifies that it is confined to the nerves of the part, whether they be in a state of increased or diminished sensibility. For instance, if a limb be paralysed, or the sensibility of its nerves diminished, it is termed *nervous*, and if the nerves be so morbidly sensible, that the

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to take their sovereign remedies. A very respectable correspondent informs us that Dr. S. and Dr. B. finding the demand for their nostrums was not increased by their elevation to the academical honour of M. D. agreed to oppose each other, under the idea that such opposition would more effectually direct the attention of nervous subjects to their infallible nostrums and their books of advice. This was carried on by their amanuenses, with such spirit, that Brodum demanded the satisfaction of a gentleman; Solomon coolly replied, by advising him to take his Balm of Gilead, in order to allay the morbid excitement of his nervous system. Brodum politely thanked Solomon for his kind advice, but he preferred a sudden death by a bullet, to a lingering one by the Balm of Gilead—besides, said the Doctor, the latter is certain, if I were such an idiot as to take your poison, whereas in honourable duel I shall have a chance to escape with my life. Here the correspondence ended.

slightest touch, or even a breath of air will excite the most acute pain, as in tic doloureux, &c. it is also denominated nervous.

Of all the parts of the body, the anatomy of the brain is the most complex. Anatomists are well acquainted with the divisions, protuberances, sinuses, fissures, and different appearances this organ exhibits on dissection: but the most able physiologists of the age do not pretend to explain their different offices. From the anatomy and physiology of other organs, it is evident that every part of the brain, however slight its character may be, was made for some purpose.

Messrs. Gall and Spurzheim, of Paris, have, within these few years, broached a new theory, which, in *their* opinion, throws great light on the physiology of the brain. They pretend to have ascertained that the brain is composed of a variety of organs (about forty), which perform the various operations of the mind; and they even point out those which perform different offices or functions; as the organ of attachment to life; the organ of preservation of life; the organ of the selection of articles of diet; the organ of the external senses; the organ of goodness; the organ of attachment; the organ of murder, falsehood, theft, &c. &c.; and they even pretend to ascertain the dispositions, or ruling passions of invalids, by the certain prominences of the skull, as indicative of the size of the organs which they cover. If this theory be correct, how are we to allow for the division of what is immaterial, a solecism in physics, or to separate independent powers acting in different parts of the body? How are we, indeed, to account for the different powers of the body, as the *vis insita*, the *vis nervosa*, the *vis conservatrix*, and the *vis medicatrix*; and for the sympathies, direct, and indirect, which exist in the living body?

The converts to this theory contend that a knowledge of it is of great importance, even to parents, in order to enable them to ascertain the innate dispositions of their children. When a prominence of the skull indicates an organ of vice to be large, the parent should endeavour to check its growth by bringing forward the organs of goodness; as those of religion, philanthropy, attachment, &c. Hence, then, these very organs, of which the powers or operations of the mind are dependent, are to be influenced through the medium of the mind, which implies that there is a super-addition to the organs.

We have heard this fanciful theory much condemned, on the supposition that it favours the gloomy doctrines of materialism: but so far from this being the case, it refutes them; because the fact of one organ being brought into action by another, which is remote from it (allowing a variety to exist), and the concatenation of ideas which depends on a peculiar communication between them, prove that they are all under the influence of some intelligent power which is not material but spiritual.

We have paid some attention to the system of Dr. Gall, and we confess, although at first prejudiced in its favour, we have not discovered any thing to admire, except the fertile power of imagination. With respect to a knowledge of the dispositions or ruling passions of individuals, or of the anatomy of the human mind, which physicians should cultivate, as well as that of the body, we are disposed to believe that the science termed physiognomy, or that of forming an opinion of the dispositions or qualities of the mind, from the features of the face, is

more plausible than the splendid system of Gall. The late Mr. Sharpe, (the first engraver of human countenances this country has produced, and who, to enable him to diffuse, as it were, the *mind* of the person whose portrait he copied, paid particular attention to the physiognomy of a great variety of animals,) always formed an opinion of the ruling passions and dispositions of a person from the resemblance of his countenance to some brute; and we have heard him state, that governed by this guide, he never erred. He admired the countenances of the late Duke of Norfolk, and of the late Mr. Fox, because they resembled that of the lion. He has said he refused a considerable remuneration to engrave the likeness of the late Mr. Pitt, because his countenance was a composition of the expressions of a set of brutes of savage minds. Although a Whig, he always avoided the company of some gentlemen of the same politics, who were particularly desirous to become acquainted with him, because their features resembled those of a baboon, an animal of a filthy rapacious mind. He gratuitously engraved the likeness of Mr. Brothers, the pretended prophet, because he fancied he discovered in his physiognomy a superhuman simplicity. This celebrated artist considered himself gifted with a metaphysical sense. Speaking of the atheistical doctrines of a *philosophical* bookseller, he emphatically observed, "His opinions serve his trade, and the result of his trade flatters his vanity: but he as firmly believes in the existence of a God, and in a future state, as myself, and I want (said he) no further evidence of the existence of a God, than the blades of grass over which I carelessly walk every day of my life." He, in fact, like the untutored Indian,

"Saw God in clouds, and heard him in the wind."

He was of course very superstitious, and like most superstitious persons he was most strictly honest, and from our personal knowledge of him, we can have no hesitation in saying the pride of his life consisted in discharging his duty to his fellow-creatures as a Christian, and on account of his correct conduct, and his benevolent disposition, he was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

The brain is generally considered to be the seat of sensation, the theatre of all the intellectual operations, and the part by which the immaterial principle, termed the soul, is immediately connected with the body. The operations of the mind are not always influenced by a disordered condition of the brain, for invalids, whose cerebral systems are so excessively excitable as to be disturbed by "a breath of air," or to receive violent impressions from very slight causes; and although in such a state of debility as to be incapable of commanding the muscles of the upper and lower extremities, often possess very strong and steady minds, taking great pleasure in deep philosophical research, and are even capable of evincing great depth of reasoning on the most obtuse subjects, and of drawing correct conclusions. Indeed, nervous subjects, as the late Lord Erskine, and other advocates, have shewn much subtilty of reasoning, ingenuity of argument, and even corporeal strength, when engaged in defence of a client. We have known a very nervous nurse of a provincial hospital, who was often exceedingly distressed by any unpleasant intelligence from her family, and agitated by unpleasant occurrences, hold the limb of a person during the amputation of it

with great firmness, and apparently without any feeling of sympathy, and a soldier who had been engaged in many sanguinary battles, whose nervous system was apparently callous, to faint on witnessing the same operation. It is also common to meet with persons possessing minds most acutely sensible, (feeling for others' woes more sensibly than the sufferers themselves), whose nervous systems are peculiarly strong and firm, and also with persons whose nervous systems are extremely irritable, with minds devoid of any thing like sympathy or commiseration. The state of the mind, therefore, throws little light on that of the nervous or cerebral system. The fact of a nervous and debilitated person possessing a very strong mind, clearly shews, that certain operations of the mind are not mere secretions of the brain, as the advocates of the wretched doctrines of materialism assert, but afford incontrovertible evidence, if any were necessary, of the super-addition to the body of an immaterial principle, termed the soul. The mind, however, is sometimes influenced by the disordered condition of the brain, becoming extremely irritable and fanciful. When it is directed to the state of the health of the body, the complaint is termed hypochondriacism. This affection, which is generally treated as imaginary, is as much dependant on corporeal disorder as any other malady, and the patient has no more command over his suffering than a person afflicted with gouty inflammation has over the pain, and has as much claim to commiseration, and as great a right to expect as much relief from medicine as any other invalid. When the mind fixes violently on any particular subject, as religion, politics, &c., it is apt to become *partially* diseased; and when it becomes diffused, or, as it is said "abroad," i. e. fixing on no particular subject, but running rapidly from one to another, mania may be apprehended, which is generally dependant on some morbid condition of the brain.

Singularities or peculiarities of the constitution, which so frequently occur in practice, technically termed, *idiosyncrasy*, appear to be dependant on the nervous system. So general and common is peculiarity of constitution, that we may say, that almost every individual has, in some degree, a state of health peculiar to himself, independent of the morbid temperaments we have noticed, as the sanguineous, the leucophlegmatic, the erysipelatous, the nervous, &c. &c. On some persons, a mild application to the skin will produce considerable inflammation, and this effect is sometimes occasioned by an ointment containing bees-wax; and it is not uncommon for a mild article of diet, as veal, &c., to disorder the stomach. We lately met with a nervous patient, who was in the habit of taking two grains of opium, (an article which is generally administered to check diarrhoea, and which almost uniformly constipates the bowels) as an aperient; and he always found it operate as effectually and much more pleasantly than any of the class of aperient medicines.

It is, therefore, incumbent on patients to acquaint their medical attendants with the peculiarities of their constitutions, and the duty of physicians not only to attend to such statements, but, by inquiries, to obtain a knowledge of them. The fashionable physicians, who

generally estimate the *success* of their practice from the number of their fees, cannot spare time for such information. Their duty (to *themselves*) is confined to a short ceremony of feeling the pulse, looking at the tongue, and writing a prescription, to entitle them to the fee, and in receiving it their object is attained. A certain system-monger, celebrated for eccentricity, thinks it waste of time to attend to any such "*irrelevant* nonsense;" for, let the complaint be what it may, and the peculiarities of the constitution ever so singular, they must give way to the blue pill and an aperient draught; and, although the peculiarities are not diseases, but dependant on original organization, even they must give way to his blue pill system. Peculiarity of constitution has been noticed as an objection to domestic medicine; but, so far from this being the case, we really think it operates in its favour; for, surely, the invalid, who is acquainted with his peculiarities, must be as competent, if not more so, to the treatment of his own complaint as the physician who does not take the trouble to become acquainted with them. All diseases are more or less modified by peculiarities, and, in some constitutions, a disease often requires an opposite treatment to that which is proper in another person, and a knowledge of the cause of such modifications is not to be acquired at any school, or even by extensive practice, but from the patients themselves. It was the practice of the late Dr. Campbell, of Hereford, and the late Dr. Reynolds, of London, always to keep in view the nervous system in the treatment of diseases; and the most experienced practitioners are aware, that, in the treatment of all diseases, we have more to combat in the constitution from nervous excitement or peculiarity than in the disease itself.

The sympathies existing between the different parts of the living body, not depending on proximity, have engaged the attention of ancient and modern physiologists; and to the physician and metaphysician these phenomena afford an extensive field for research and reflection. Sympathies, contiguous and remote, are, like the peculiarities of constitution, greatly dependant on the nervous system, and are no doubt much influenced by singularity of constitution. Although the brain is the seat of sensation, the sympathy between it and the stomach is so immediate or direct, and that between the stomach and the other viscera so considerable, that the stomach may be considered the centre of sympathy. Mr. Abernethy, who attributes most of the local diseases that take place in the human body to a disordered state of the liver, stomach, and duodenum, admits, what indeed no surgeon of experience and observation will deny, that the stomach is often sympathetically affected. When, says he, "I find, that irritation of the *nervous system*, *however it may originate*, deranges the chylopoietic organs, and affects the stomach, bowels, and liver, apparently at the same time, I think it fair to infer, that these organs are equally operated on by the *same* cause. Disorder of the brain, he observes, "may affect the chylopoietic organs, and it is well known that this influence is reciprocal. The stomach is said to be chiefly concerned in producing these effects, but the cause of the sympathetic affection is probably more general. A fit of passion has produced jaundice, and the irritation of teething in children frequently suspends

the secretion of bile, so that the stools are not in the least degree tinged with that fluid. If the brain can thus affect the liver, it is reasonable to infer, that the liver may reciprocally affect the head. It is very difficult to form an opinion relative to this subject; for, in the instances which have been mentioned, the affection of the liver may take place, *only because it forms a part of the digestive organs, and not from a DIRECT sympathy existing between it and the brain.* Still, however," says Mr. A. "I do not think it unreasonable to conclude, that irritation of the other chylopoietic organs may, as well as that of the stomach, disorder the source of sensation." Such is the sympathy existing between the brain and stomach, that a disgusting object will often excite vomiting, and even some operations of the mind itself seems to act directly on the stomach. The seat of grief appears to be the stomach, and the distressing feelings of the hypochondriac being generally referred to the region of the stomach, we have often been disposed to attribute the latter to some disordered or diseased state of the ganglions near the stomach, the use of which is probably to keep up a nervous energy between the brain and the abdominal viscera, *i. e.* they are probably auxiliaries to the brain for the purpose of equalizing the nervous power throughout the contents of the abdomen. "Our bodies," says Mr. Abernethy, "are so constructed, that one part seldom suffers alone, and sometimes the most inconsiderable organ, when injured, excites the most violent affections." Some of the natural sympathies are very remarkable, and not to be accounted for by at least direct nervous connexion. The sympathy existing between the uterus and the stomach, and between the uterus and the glands of the breast, which secrete milk (mammary) is evident from the nausea which is attendant on pregnancy and the swelling of the breasts, and even secretion of milk during the last stage of pregnancy, and also by the after pains being brought on by drawing the breasts. The sympathy which exists between the brain and stomach is so great, that it is often extremely difficult to ascertain which is sympathetically disturbed. The sympathy between the stomach and remote parts, in which no natural sympathy *apparently* exists, is often remarkably increased by disease. Hence, in cases of painful or irritative ulcerations in the extremities, a stimulus applied to the stomach will almost instantaneously aggravate the local disease, without disturbing the nervous system, or accelerating the circulation, and an anodyne taken into the stomach will as speedily allay pain in an extremity. We have known the stomach to be greatly disordered, immediately on the application of a caustic to an ulcer in the rectum, and it is common for even a robust man to experience a distressing sensation at his stomach, and to faint on introducing a sound or bougie into a diseased bladder. When a part is affected with an irritative disease, the sympathy between it and the whole body is proportionably increased with that of the stomach. In cases of disease in any part of the intestinal canal the application of cold water, even to the feet or hands, will produce acute pain in the bowels, and even purging. The same degree of sympathy exists between the skin of the extremities in cases of diseased lungs, heart, bladder, uterus, &c. An internal inflammation or irritation is sympathetically aggra-

vated only by such applications that diminish the afflux of blood and nervous energy to the skin, as cold water and spirits; for, if stimulants be applied, although the sympathy between the diseased part and skin is considerably increased, they have a contrary effect on the internal disease to that on the skin, by producing as it were a diversion in its favour; but if the internal disease be that of debility, a stimulus applied to the skin, as blister, mustard poultice, &c., has a stimulating effect on the internal disease, and these effects as well as many others, involve the doctrines of sympathy in great obscurity.

The great link of sympathetic connexion is, however, the stomach and its ganglions: With this organ, the brain, the liver, the small and large intestines, the kidneys, the lungs, and even the joints and skin sympathize. There are, however, particular sympathies in which the stomach is not concerned, as that between the breasts and the uterus, &c. The sympathy between the brain or the stomach and other parts is greatly increased by irritative disease: for instance, in irritative affections of the bladder, the sympathy between it and the stomach is so much increased, that what irritates the latter, will immediately aggravate the affection of the former. The same may be said of diseases of the uterus, kidneys, rectum, colon, bladder, or even of the extremities. Whether this sympathy be by nerves through the medium of the brain, that is, the brain is acted on by the stomach, and the brain re-acts on the disordered part, is doubtful; certain it is, that unfavourable intelligence or vexation, the first action of which is on the brain, will operate on such parts that are diseased, i. e. it will excite diarrhoea in persons whose bowels are morbidly irritable or diseased. If the bladder be diseased, it will increase the irritation or mischief; if the uterus be diseased, it will act on it, so as to excite hysterical fits, and even suspend or increase its periodical secretions: if the stomach be diseased, it will excite vomiting. It often happens that the sympathetic affection of an organ will run higher than the primary disease, and from the greater importance of the organ in the animal economy, will become the principal object of attention in the medical treatment; indeed, it is not uncommon for the primary disease to decrease as the sympathetic advances, and spontaneously to terminate when it (the sympathetic) has arrived to an advanced stage. This fact seems to prove that the sympathy between the two parts was not through the medium of the brain: besides, if organs sympathized only through the medium of the brain, the sympathetic effect would be on the organ or viscus with which the brain most sympathizes, as the stomach, which is not the case when the primary disease ceases and the sympathetic one has advanced. Legitimate physicians think they fully explain such sympathetic affection by terming it *metastasis*, by which they mean to say the disease is *translated* from the primary seat to the one it occupies, but whether it was conveyed by some peculiar power of nerves, by the circulating fluids, or by absorbent vessels, they will not so far enlighten the public, or rather expose their ignorance, as to hazard an opinion. If legitimate physic. (*irregular quackery*) were stript of its verbiage, it would soon cease to flourish even among the most ignorant classes of society. It would be fortunate for

mankind if these philosophers of words could *metastasise* diseases of vital parts or of internal organs to the surface of the body. As we can generally account for many natural sympathies by nervous connexion of the parts, as the action of the diaphragm and expiratory muscles on irritating the inner membrane of the nostrils, vomiting on irritating the nerves of the upper part of the gullet, &c., it is probable that all sympathies depend on some nervous communication between the parts, on which anatomy throws no light. It certainly does not depend on similarity of texture, because parts sympathize which greatly differ in structure. The late Dr. Baillie thought, that the fact of deep seated tumours, being dispersed by mercurial friction on the skin over the part, proved, that a sympathy existed between the absorbents of the skin, and those of the tumour, because the ointment was certainly not conveyed directly to the tumour by the absorbent vessels of the skin. The action of the absorbents of the diseased mass was no doubt increased by the friction, and if the mercury was not directly conveyed to the tumour, it would reach it through the medium of the circulation, and had the mercury been introduced by the mouth, the effect of dry friction would have been equally efficacious.

A late writer, celebrated for fine flights of fancy, has described a peculiar sympathy, which he terms sympathy of equilibrium, in opposition to sympathy in its more general sense; by which he means the diminished action of parts near to that in which the mischief has taken place; as constipation attendant on inflammation of the stomach, the diminished irritability of the skin when an organ of the abdomen is inflamed: but the diminution of vitality of a part which takes place when an organ is inflamed, or in a state of morbid irritation, is not from sympathy, but the consequence of the increased determination of blood and nervous energy to the affected part, in consequence of which the other parts are deprived of their natural supply of blood and of nervous power. The sympathetic affection of an organ may vary a little from the primary affection, in consequence of some difference of structure; but, in essence, it is the same. Some physiologists have supposed, that one office of the nerves is to convey a subtle matter from the brain, which they have termed the nervous fluid. After the discovery of the supposed modified electric fluid by Galvani, some physiologists imagined, that it was the same as the nervous fluid, and many results of experiments on animals have been published to prove the identity of both the fluids. About fourteen years since, we published a system of medicine, founded chiefly on this supposition; but, on making experiments on animals, we discovered, instead of the nerves being such excellent conductors of the galvanic fluid as the advocates for the theory had stated, that the muscles of the body were better conductors. The opinion was afterwards taken up by Dr. Philip, who thought that he had so far satisfactorily ascertained that the galvanic fluid was the same as the nervous fluid, that when an organ was deprived of the latter, by cutting off its nervous communication with the brain, it performed its functions when supplied with galvanic fluid. The experiments were repeated by others as well as by ourselves, but no such results appeared. The manner in

which the doctor performed his experiments, proved that he was unacquainted with the science of galvanism or electricity ; for the fluid, instead of passing by nerves to the stomach as he imagined, travelled by the skin in a direct line from the positive to the negative pole.

The physiologists who suppose that a subtile fluid, similar to the galvanic, is conducted by the nerves from the brain, have not ventured to risk an opinion as to the source of the fluid, *i. e.* whether it be secreted by the brain from the blood ; whether it be electric fluid modified or animalised by the brain ; or whether it be the consequence of the decompositions which take place in the lungs during respiration. If a fluid analogous to the electric or galvanic were really conveyed from the brain by the nerves to every part of the body, one would suppose that its existence might be easily demonstrated ; but although a great variety of attempts have been made by ingenious philosophers to collect it, by surrounding the body with non-conductors of the electric or galvanic fluid, and by dividing the principal nerve of the thigh, and even the spinal marrow, and drawing forward the divided extremities with a non-conducting forceps, so as to bring them nearly in contact, (in a dark place) nothing like a galvanic-electric fluid has appeared, nor did either end evince any thing like an attractive or repulsive power.\* The celebrated physiologist, Hunter, who believed for some time that a subtile fluid was conveyed by the nerves from the brain, (the nervous fluid) after many experiments, and much reflection on the nature and source of the vital principle, became satisfied that the brain does not secrete a subtile or any other fluid, and that it and the nerves are supplied with a vital principle, in the same manner as the muscles and other solids, principally, if not wholly, from the blood. He supposed that the source of primary living power of the body, (*materia vitæ profusa*) was the blood instead of the brain and nerves, because when the brain is deprived of blood it dies, and when the circulation is completely obstructed in a limb, the nerves with the other parts die at the same time ; but when the nervous connexion of a part with the brain is entirely cut off, the life of it continues so long as the blood is transmitted through it. The following is the substance of Mr. Hunter's theory of the living principle, or *materia vitæ diffusa*.

"Blood itself is not only alive, but is the support of life in every part of the body, for mortification speedily follows, when the circulation is cut off from any part. This fact shews, that no part of the body can be considered as a *complete living* substance producing and continuing mere life without the blood, so that the blood makes

\*Since writing the preceding remarks, we find by an article in the Parisian Journal of Physiology, that Dr. Breton, professor of medicine, at Grenoble, has lately communicated to the president of the French Academy, some observations relative to a development of electrical phenomena during an epileptic paroxysm. Should the professor not be a physiological dreamer, like the generality of the physiologists of France, the fact will greatly strengthen the theory of our scientific countryman, Surgeon Mansford, of the dependance of epilepsy on an accumulation of electric matter.

one part of the compound; without which life would neither begin nor be continued. Life is preserved by the compound of blood and body, for the body does not sooner die without the blood than the blood without the body. The blood must be kept alive, because while it is supporting life in the solids, it is either losing its own, or is rendered incapable of supporting that of the body. To accomplish all this, it must have motion, and that in a circle, as it is a continuance of the *same* blood which circulates, in which it is, in one point of view, supersaturated as it were with the living power; and in another it is deficient, having disposed of it during its visits to different parts of the body. Life is, in some degree, in proportion to this motion, either stronger or weaker, so that the blood may be considered in proportion to this motion, either stronger or weaker. Not only is the blood alive in itself, but carries life to every part of the body. It is not, however, says he, *simply the motion*, but it is that which arises out of, or the *consequence of*, the *motion*. Here then would appear to be three parts; viz. body, blood, and motion; which latter, in his opinion, preserves the living union between the other two, or the life in both. These three make up a complete body, out of which arises a *principle of self-motion*, a motion totally spent on the machine, or which may be said to move in a circle for the support of the whole; for, says he, "the body dies without the *motion* of the blood upon it, and the blood dies without the *motion* of the body on it, pretty nearly in equal time."

"The living principle in the blood is similar in its effects to the living principle in the solids, owes its existence to the same matter which belongs to the other, and is the *materia vitæ diffusa*, of which every part of an animal has its portion. It is as it were diffused through the whole solids and fluids, making a necessary constituent part of them, and forming with them a perfect whole, giving to both a "power of preservation, the susceptibility of impression, and from their construction reciprocal action." This, says Hunter, is the matter which principally composes the brain, and where there is a brain there must be necessarily parts to connect it with the rest of the body, which are the nerves, and as the *use* of the nerves is to continue, and therefore to convey the impression or action of the one to the other; these parts of communication must necessarily be of the same matter, for any other matter would not continue the same action.

"From this it may be understood, that nothing material is conveyed from the brain by the nerves, nor *vice versa* from the body to the brain; for if that were exactly the case, it would not be necessary for the nerves to be of the same materials with the brain; but as we find the nerves of the same materials, it is a presumptive proof that they only continue the same action which they receive at either end.

"The blood has as much of the living principle as the solids, which keeps up harmony between them; and as every part endowed with this principle, has a sympathetic affection upon simple contact, so as to affect each other, (termed, by Mr. Hunter, *contiguous sympathy*); so the blood and the body are capable of affecting and

being affected by each other, which accounts for that reciprocal influence which each has on the other; the blood being evidently composed of the same materials with the body, being endowed with the same living powers, but from its unsettled state, having no communication with the brain, is one of the strongest proofs of the *materia vitæ* making a constituent part of the body, *independent* of the nerves, and is similar in this respect to those inferior orders of animals who have no nerves, where every other principle of the animal is diffused through the whole.

This opinion cannot be proved by experiment; but, says Mr. Hunter, "daily experience shews us, that the living principle in the body acts exactly upon the same principle with the brain. Every part of the body is susceptible of impression, and the vital principle of every part is thrown into action, which, if continued to the brain, produces sensation, but it may only be such as to throw the part of impression into such actions as it is capable of, according to the kind of impression; so doth the brain or mind. The body loses impression by habit, so does the brain; it continues action from habit; so does the brain. The body, or parts of the body, have a recollection of former impressions when impressed; so has the brain; but they have not spontaneous memory as the brain has, because, the brain is a complete whole of itself, and therefore its actions are complete in themselves. The living principle being diffused, makes part of the body in which exists and acts for this part, probably for this part alone. The whole taken together, (says Mr. Hunter,) hardly makes a whole, so as to constitute what might be called an organ; the action of which is always for some other purpose than itself; but this is not the case with the brain. The brain is a mass of this matter, not diffused through any thing, for the purpose of that thing, but constituting an organ in itself, the actions of which are for other purposes, viz. receiving by means of the nerves the vast variety of actions in the diffused vital principle which arise from impression and habit, combining these, and distinguishing from what part they come. The brain then, (says Mr. Hunter,) depends on the body for its impressions, which is sensation; and the consequent action is that of the mind, and the body depends upon the consequence of this intelligence, or effect of this mind, called the will, to impress it to action; but such are not spent upon itself, but are for other purposes, and are called voluntary. Life, says Mr. Hunter, is a property we do not understand, we can only see the necessary leading steps towards it; mere composition of matter does not give life, for the dead body has all the composition of matter it ever had, it has only lost that principle (the *materia vitæ diffusa*) which is not matter.

The system, which is opposed to that of Mr. Hunter, considers the brain and nervous system as the fountain of life; and so far from receiving its life from the blood, the nervous system is capable of instantaneously changing the crasis of the blood, or any other animal fluid; and though the nervous system cannot continue its actions for any length of time, if the action of the blood-vessels is

suspended, yet the heart and blood vessels (say the advocates for this doctrine) cannot act a single moment without the influence of the nervous fluid. Hence, say they, it is plain we may suppose the nervous system, and not the blood, to contain properly the life of the animal, and consequently to be the principal *vital* organ.

The irritability or contractile power of muscles is independent of nervous influence; and as to the action of the heart not continuing a single moment without the influence of the nervous fluid, the ventricles of the heart will continue to contract and dilate alternately for some minutes after it is removed from the body; and certain it is, its action is not diminished in the smallest degree by dividing the nerves which connect it with the brain, or by dividing the upper part of the spinal marrow (in the cervical portion of the vertebrae). We have seen these experiments repeated in rabbits, after removing the breast bone, so as to expose the heart to view.

The existence of the various powers in the living body, (which, we presume, no surgeon of experience and observation will deny,) enumerated in the 175th page of the present volume, and which we intend more particularly to notice in our next number, clearly proves, that an intelligence pervades the whole body; and the supposition that the brain and nerves are the connecting medium between it and the body, many phenomena tend to confirm. Of the nature of this superaddition to the body, as Hunter observes, we are ignorant. It is that immaterial or spiritual part, the existence of which we feel, but on which we cannot concentrate the rays of the mind. The Creator has given us the power of exploring the physical world only, and in this we have made, within the last twenty years, considerable progress; indeed, we may with truth say, that the field has only been properly entered within that time. Our ancestors dreamed in it, Boerhaave opened the door to it, the Roman religion would have closed it for ever, as too sacred for mortals to enter (except *saints*); the Protestant religion, strengthened by the rays of reason, have paved the road into it; and, by the chemists of the present day, it has been freely explored and deeply exploded, so that analysis and synthesis have, within a few years, made stupendous strides; and fortunate will it be for the Pope, (and those monarchs whose thrones are founded on ignorance, and consequently decided enemies to the progress of knowledge, and the advancement of the invaluable gift which distinguishes man from brutes—reason,) if it does not speedily undermine their institution, the basis of which is bigotry and superstition.

The anatomist, who has paid any attention to the philosophy of the human body, must be satisfied that an intelligence pervades every part of it, and that this intelligence is independent of matter; that it is, in fact, as Abernethy observes, a superaddition to the body, and on the loss of which the body becomes defunct, although entire on losing it, as in cases of sudden death from lightning. On taking a view of the progress of the embryo, the existence of this intelligence is perhaps still more evident, for under its power the various parts of the body are formed. In noticing the incubation of the egg, (in our 102d number, page 982) we have

described the progress of the formation of the brain, heart, muscles, bones, &c. &c. from what is usually termed the white of the egg. In the formation of the embryo, we clearly see a vital principle existing as it were at large, and acting of itself as a regulator of its own motions, and this power is not received from the hen during the period of hatching, because it is brought into action, and continues to advance till the foetus is complete under the influence of artificial heat.

Notwithstanding the high degree of susceptibility of the brain and nerves constituting "nervous temperament," noticed page 174, the unfortunate subjects generally escape serious organic disease, and even epidemic complaints, although their general health is often greatly disturbed by atmospherical changes, and especially by the east or north-east wind. The local complaints to which they are chiefly liable, on their general health being disordered, are those of simple irritation, as rheumatism, gout, a combination of gouty and rheumatic irritation, asthma, head-ache, and mania.

The class of remedies capable of allaying nervous irritation, or diminishing morbid susceptibility or sensibility of nerves, and for strengthening the nervous system (termed nervines) is very extensive, embracing nearly all the articles of the *materia medica* : denominated narcotics, anodynes, sedatives, hypnotics, soporifics, antispasmodics, stimulants, tonics, &c. &c. Many routine physicians prescribe tonic medicines and a generous diet in cases of general nervous excitability, under the idea that it is dependant on weakness; but the robust as well as the weak are its victims, and the general and local remedies which succeed in tranquillizing the nervous system in the former, will disturb or irritate it in the latter. The *irritability* of the body is a property confined to or inherent in muscles, and probably also in membranes, whilst sensibility is dependant on nerves only, and between these two properties there is evidently a peculiar harmony or reciprocity of action, so that when the equilibrium is destroyed or interrupted, the nervous system becomes preternaturally susceptible of impressions. The effect of the east wind, which is very remarkable on some nervous subjects, may perhaps be attributed to some electrical influence in interrupting the harmony between the muscular and nervous system; for certain it is, neither the temperature, the density, nor humidity of the air, at the time, has much, if any thing, to do with its baneful operation; and some nervous subjects are even sensible of the air having shifted from a friendly to an unfriendly quarter, even during the time they are warm in bed, and in a room in which the external air could scarcely find admittance, in consequence of the windows and doors being well secured against its ingress and egress.

Hysterical and epileptic nervous invalids are very subject to a peculiar head-ache, accompanied with considerable diminution of temperature in the extremities, and frequently in the bowels, some hours, and sometimes days, before a paroxysm, which we have often heard an invalid attribute to an accumulation of nervous energy in the brain, and others to the suspension of the action of the nerves in the extremities; and in such cases, a paroxysm generally succeeds

in removing the affection of the head, and restoring the limbs to their natural state of temperature and vigour, probably by re-establishing the harmony between the nervous and muscular systems.\* After this convulsive action has run its course, certain it is, both the systems (nervous and muscular) become tranquil.

The treatment of the nervous habit, like the other temperaments, must be regulated by the state of the general health. If the sanguiferous system be overloaded, and the patient of a robust habit, the best nervous remedies will be aperient medicines and bleeding, with a low diet; on the contrary, if the patient be of a low spare habit, and the pulse low, cordials, and a generous diet, will generally succeed in subduing the excessive susceptibility or general irritation of the nervous system. There is, however, a class of nervous medicines, which act directly in subduing nervous excitability or sensibility, termed narcotics, anodynes, soporifics, and hypnotics, as the laurel, deadly nightshade, poppy, henbane, hemlock, aconite, &c. Some theorists, observing the system to become excited after taking any of this class of medicine, have attributed its quieting effects to a peculiar stimulating action on the nervous system, which speedily exhausted its powers; but all the medicines of this class are poisons, and the excitement which takes place is probably the alarm of that power, which we think every practitioner of experience and observation will allow to exist in the system, termed the conservative power (*vis conservatrix*), because when a solution of opium, or extract of deadly nightshade, be applied to an irritative ulcer, or to nerves of the skin in a state of morbid excitement, it *immediately* acts in allaying the local irritation; and when administered in a sufficient quantity, to paralyse, as it were, the conservative power, it immediately acts as a sedative. In some nervous subjects, the conservative power is so much roused by an opiate, that instead of tranquillizing the nervous system, or of procuring sleep, it has greatly increased the excitement, so as to prevent sleep; and this effect is very common when the complaint borders on mania; and even when an opiate succeeds in quieting the system, and in inducing sleep, the patient is very apt to become most distressingly nervous after its effects have gone off. This class of medicines is therefore very rarely employed to quiet or subdue the state of the cerebral system, which constitutes the nervous temperament. There is a class of medicines which is also termed by ancient and modern authors *nervines*, for the effects of which it is difficult to account, unless, like the advertised nervous cordials of quacks, the prescriptions of some *legitimate* or fashionable physicians, amulets, charms, and incantations, which are still employed in catholic countries, they act through the medium of the imagination, which has great influence on the brain and nerves of superstitious and weak invalids. This class, which, with the antients, was very numerous, has been very considerably abridged by the moderns,

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\* Epileptic convulsions appear to be similar to those which occur on dividing the spinal marrow close to the base of the skull, which shews a connexion between the nervous and muscular systems.

at least in this country; and these few are only prescribed by the blind sticklers for legittimates or the monkish medicine of Warwick Lane, as the castor, musk, viper wine, &c. Pulverised human skull, the relics of saints, and dried toads (great favourites with the antients), have not indeed been abandoned till the pompous impostors were compelled, by general ridicule, to relinquish the cane and wig. Another class of nervous medicines, still in great repute in this country, operate beneficially in allaying nervous excitement, or general nervous irritation. The stomach being, as we have observed, page 178, the centre of sympathy, it is probable these mild stimulants succeed in quieting the nervous system of weakly invalids, by harmonizing, as it were, the viscera or organs of the belly, and even of the chest and pelvis, which effect is extended to the nervous and muscular systems. The principal articles of this class of medicines are ammonia, subcarbonate of ammonia, compound spirit of ammonia (spirit of sal volatile), the nitric and sulphuric ethers, valerian, the fetid gums, preparations of iron, &c.

No medicines act more efficaciously in maintaining the reciprocity of action between the muscular and the nervous systems, or the harmonious sympathy between the various organs, than those which keep up the important processes of chylification and fecification, and prevent accumulation of faeces and gas in the alimentary canal.

The fact of constipation being a forerunner of a variety of nervous affections, as head-ache, epilepsy, hysterick fits, St. Vitus's dance, asthma, palpitation of the heart, and even indigestion and coldness of the extremities, forcibly points out to such patients the necessity of attending to the state of the bowels. For the purpose of keeping up the peristaltic motion, rhubarb is a favourite remedy with many physicians, because, as they say, it is both stomachic and aperient; but there are two great objections to it, viz. its tending to increase the disposition of the intestines to constipation, and its continued use, (like that of other stomachics,) acting injuriously on the stomach. Such an aperient medicine should be employed that will not disorder the stomach or duodenum, but promote the secretion of the colon, and diminish the determination of the blood to the brain (a common cause of general nervous disturbance), by increasing it in the lower intestines, and consequently in the extremities. To answer these purposes, the extract of aloes is certainly a valuable remedy; but as it is too bitter, too drastic, and too stimulating to the rectum for continued use, we have been in the habit of prescribing it in conjunction with alcaline extract of jalap, and the essential oil of juniper berries, in the following proportions:

Take of Extract of Socotrine Aloes, half a drachm;

Alcaline Extract of Jalap, one ditto;

Essential Oil of Juniper Berries, ten drops.

Mix well together, and divide into twenty pills. One, two, or three of these pills to be taken every day, about two hours before dinner, so as to produce one fecal evacuation.

If this composition should not prove sufficiently strong to conquer the disposition to costiveness, half a drachm of scammony, or a scruple of gamboge, may be added to it, and the mass divided into

twenty-six pills. If these should not succeed, it will be more advisable to employ a lavement of warm water, or a weak solution of the Epsom salt in thin gruel (about six drachms to a pint), than to increase the dose or to exhibit a more powerful combination. If the patient be subject to piles, or irritation in the rectum, bladder, or urethra, the extract of aloes should be omitted. The addition of a diuretic to an aperient medicine, considerably promotes its efficacy in harmonizing the abdominal nerves, by bringing the kidneys into healthy action. To the use of the saline aperients, as Glauber's salt, the Epsom salt, the Cheltenham salt, the Seidlitz salt, &c., there is the same objection as in cases of head-ache from plenitude—by diminishing the temperature of the stomach and bowels, they occasion a determination of blood to the head, and by disordering the stomach and bowels, increasing flatulence, &c., many nervous and other complaints, as epileptic, hysterical and apoplectic fits, St. Vitus's dance, asthma, &c. have followed their free use.

If the stomach be in a state of debility, and the nervous system much relaxed, the symptoms of which are a sense of emptiness or want of support about the region of the stomach, (often experienced by females to a distressing degree on taking off the stays), great depression of spirits, a sense of general languor, three table-spoonsful of the following mixture may be also taken two or three times a day.

Take of Tincture of Quinine, half an ounce, or  
 Compound Tincture of Rhatany Root, one ounce,  
 Tincture of Buchu Leaves, one ounce,  
 Liquor of Subcarbonate of Ammonia, two drachms,  
 Camphorated Mixture, six ounces.—Mix.

The diosma crenata, or Buchu leaves, are held in great estimation as a nervous medicine at the Cape of Good Hope, and we have very frequently witnessed their salutary effects in quieting the nervous system, particularly of debilitated elderly people.\*

The following compositions are also excellent nervous stomachic medicines.

No. 1.

Take of the Volatile Tincture of Lupulin (farina of the hop),  
 three drachms,  
 Tincture of Quinine, three drachms,  
 ——— of Buchu Leaves, one ounce,  
 Camphorated Julep, six ounces.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken twice a day.

If the patient be subject to gouty irritation, or if the urine depo-

\* The Rev. Dr. W., about eighty years of age, a few weeks since favoured us with a visit, for the purpose of thanking us for the information he had obtained from our pages of this article as a remedy for nervous irritation and debility. He stated that it had succeeded with him, in quieting and strengthening his nervous system, and in promoting digestion, after all the class of nervous medicines, prescribed by eminent practitioners, had failed.

PHYSIC.]

at least in this country; and blind sticklers for legitimate Lane, as the castor, musk skull, the relics of saints, & antients), have not indeed postors were compelled, <sup>1</sup> and wig. Another class in this country, operat or general nervous is observed, page 178, t mild stimulants such invalids, by harmo belly, and even of the nervous and class of medicine compound spirit of phuric ethers, &

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— of colchicum  
— apulin.

one, three drachma,  
ounces.—Mix.

four drachms,  
even ounces.—Mix.  
times a day.  
medicine, when the legs are  
the complexion pale, or  
weak, or when the patient is

four drachms,  
Khatany Root, one ounce,  
Phloric Ether, three drachms,  
six ounces.—Mix.

three times a day. This is a nervous debility or irritation, irritability of the intestinal canal, an increased secretion of urine.

ber mild preparations of mercury, very opposite, on some four or five, producing a most happy and healthy nervous system, and on the stomach, intestines, and of indigestion of long standing obstruction, or organic affection of the pancreas, or some other renders the introduction of a stomachic or a nervine medicine administered with great caution, or what is termed the mercurial glands, never system, and instances of insatiable are very numerous.

nostrils, and especially if the  
ened, either from debility of  
the head from languid circula-  
-cess snuff may be sniffed up  
composition not only relieves  
and by exciting the secretion  
the nostrils, but by occasion-

sneezing, tends to remove congestion of the blood-vessels of brain, by equalizing the general circulation.\*

In cases of nervous head-ache, the valerian root combined with the Peruvian bark, camphor, and sal volatile, was much extolled by the late Dr. Cullen, and was frequently prescribed by the late Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester, and Dr. Blount, of Hereford, in the following proportions.

Take of Valerian Root, recently powdered,

Peruvian Bark ditto, of each two drachms,

Spirit of Sal Volatile, three drachms,

Camphorated Julep, seven ounces.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three or four times a day.

If this mixture should oppress the stomach, the following may be substituted for it.

Take of Peruvian Bark, bruised,

Valerian Root, ditto, of each half an ounce.

Mix, and infuse in three-quarters of a pint of barley water (in a closed vessel) for three hours. Then strain off the liquor through fine gauze, and add—

Volatile Tincture of Valerian, three drachms,

Compound Spirit of Lavender, four drachms.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

Some practitioners of eminence highly extol a combination of iron, valerian, ammonia, and camphor, as a remedy for nervous head-ache, especially where the circulation in the extremities is languid or the skin pale, as the following.

Take of Valerian Root, recently powdered, three drachms,

Alcaline Liquor of Iron, four drachms,

Compound Spirit of Ammonia, three drachms,

Camphorated Mixture, seven ounces.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.—Or

Take of Valerian Root, recently powdered, three drachms,

Tincture of Muriate of Iron, one drachm and a half,

Compound Spirit of Sulphuric Ether, three drachms,

Camphorated Mixture, seven ounces.—Mix.

Three table spoonsful to be taken three or four times a day.

The compound asarabacca snuff, as recommended page 190, and the aperient pills (page 188) are very proper in nervous head-ache. For nervous head-ache, and indeed for all nervous affections, local or general, it is of great importance to keep the feet warm by wearing flannel socks, or worsted stockings, and thick shoes, and to keep the head cool. Cold water applied to the head for a minute or two, either by means of a napkin every morning, or whenever the temperature of the head runs higher than the natural standard, or when there is an increased afflux of blood to the brain, is a power-

\* The increase of temperature in the extremities and in the skin of the trunk, which immediately follows sneezing, although previously as low as 56 Farh., shews that it occasions a determination of blood to the surface and extremities of the body, and is consequently capable of relieving internal parts affected with local congestion.

ful auxiliary to medicine, in strengthening or quieting the nervous system.

Nervous head-ache is sometimes attended with symptoms so strongly indicative of compression of brain from over-distension of blood vessels, that it is often a very nice point to determine, whether the complaint be purely nervous, or whether the brain is not disordered by a plethoric state of its blood vessels. Giddiness, ringing in the ears, imperfect vision, confusion of mind, a sense of heaviness, nausea, and vomiting, are not only the consequences of compression of brain from over-distension of blood vessels, but also of depletion. They precede the apoplectic fit from plethora, and also the fainting fit from the loss of blood. In nervous head-ache, the pupils are generally contracted, and in the head-ache from plethora, they are generally much dilated, often one more than the other ; but in cases of nervous head-ache, when the cerebral system is in a state of debility, the pupils are also dilated. The pulse, in the nervous head-ache is languid and small, and the extremities cold; but in the plethoric head-ache it is generally full, and the extremities warm : if, however, the brain be much compressed by the over-distended vessels, the pulse will be languid, and the skin cool. The nervous head-ache may be distinguished from the plethoric, by placing the head or body in a position which favours the afflux of blood to the brain, or checks its return from the brain. If an horizontal position, or stooping, or looking upwards or backwards when in an erect position, the giddiness or pulsation in the head be increased, the inference is, the blood vessels of the head are overloaded, and the brain disturbed by compression or increased vascular action ; but if they produce no aggravation of the leading symptoms, and especially if they afford relief, there can be no doubt of the complaint being nervous, and that the state of the blood vessels has little to do with it. Some practitioners have asserted, that the nervous head-ache may be distinguished from the plethoric by a stimulus, as brandy or wine applied to the stomach ; but when the plethoric state is merely local, that is, not dependant on general plethora, a cordial or stimulant applied to the stomach, by increasing the circulation on the bowels, will produce a diversion in favour of the overloaded brain. Nervous subjects, especially those who are of a gouty habit, are very liable to attacks of cough, termed nervous cough, on unsavourable changes in the atmosphere, from irritation at the top of the wind-pipe, or in the part termed larynx, and from the continued tickling sensation at the upper part of the wind-pipe, it is often very distressing. The irritation soon gives way to the following mixture.

Take of Compound Spirit of Sulphuric Ether, three drachms ;

Tincture of Colchicum Seeds, two ditto;

Camphorated Mixture, four ounces. Mix.—

One or two table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

The inhalation of the vapour of ether or of tar, also affords immediate relief.\*

\* Internal irritation, and especially when attended with pain or spasms, is generally considered by routine physicians as certain indications of the

The observations we have made on the stomach, as the centre of sympathy, (page 180) point out the necessity of keeping that organ in a healthy condition, in the nervous temperament. With this view, nervous subjects should be very particular in the choice of articles of diet. The peculiarities of the nervous habit, as we have already observed, are so very opposite, that the best advice a medical man can give to a nervous invalid is, to avoid those articles which evidently disagree with the stomach, and not to oppress or over-stimulate the system with too great a quantity of those which do agree. So far as a general rule can be laid down, we should say, avoid all green vegetables in a raw state, (as celery, water-cresses, lettuce, onions, cucumbers, radishes, melons, &c.) pickles, cheese, pastry, nuts, walnuts, sweetmeats, soups, broths, new potatoes, sweet ale, green tea, coffee, and all burnt articles, (as English coffee, crust of bread, and outside of roasted meat). The best article for breakfast is the sassafras cocoa with sugar and milk, (noticed in our first volume) brown bread, (not new) or sea biscuits with a little butter. The aromatic property of this cocoa promotes digestion and prevents the accumulation of flatus in the stomach and intestines, a property which neither tea, common cocoa, chocolate, nor coffee possesses. For dinner, the interior of roasted or boiled mutton, beef, boiled or roasted fowl, lamb, partridge, hare, &c. with mashed potatoes, asparagus, green peas or cabbage, with pepper; and finish with an anchovy instead of cheese. With respect to beverage, he should take such which he finds to promote digestion; either diluted spirit or well-fermented malt liquor. After dinner he may encourage a nap in the chair for a few minutes, provided he be drowsy and finds himself refreshed by it. For supper he may take a basin of broth, or light bread pudding; and if malt liquor be necessary to quiet the system or dispose it to sleep, he may take with it an anchovy with some bread.

Generally speaking, three meals a day are sufficient for the nourishment or support of the body; but, in nervous subjects, there is often such peculiarities of stomachs, that it is common for local nervous excitement to take place either in the head, heart, or bowels, when the stomach is not engaged, or when it is distended

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existence of inflammation; and we have heard a judge, in summing up the evidence brought forward in a trial for mal-practice, emphatically observe, "there was evidently pain, and pain cannot take place without inflammation!" To constitute inflammation, preternatural distension of blood vessels and increased temperature of the part are necessary; but irritation and very painful spasms frequently occur in nervous subjects without any such attendants: indeed the part is often in an opposite state, and the irritation and pain are relieved by increasing the circulation and temperature in it, either by friction or warm fomentation. In nervous subjects, a cough occasioned by inflammatory action, either in the inner membrane of the wind-pipe or in the lungs, will often continue in a nervous subject after the cause has been entirely removed, and when indeed the membrane and lungs are in an opposite state; in which case nervous cordials and a generous diet generally succeeds in quieting the disturbed nerves:—this is often the case in hooping cough.

with gas. The determination of blood to the stomach, and increased energy of its nerves which take place during digestion, often relieve violent nervous head-ache, and other local nervous affections; and for this purpose, it is common for nervous subjects to have recourse to frequent meals; and when they evidently quiet the system, allay local excessive action, and do not fatigue or oppress the stomach, they should be allowed. With respect to the frequency, quantity, and even quality of meals, a nervous patient should be as competent to judge as the most experienced physician. The late Dr. Garth-shore asked a nervous lady what she took for breakfast; who, in a low tone of voice, replied, a stale well-baked cake with a little butter. The Doctor, who was a little deaf and very absent, in haste observed, "a stale brickbat with butter! well, well, Madam, if they agree with you, you cannot do better than continue them."

A little exercise is necessary to keep up the functions of the body,—and such should be preferred which pleasantly engages the mind, as travelling in countries which afford a variety of scenery and states of society; avoiding damp or marshy countries,—the vapours of which are very apt to disturb the nervous system, particularly of gouty, rheumatic and asthmatic subjects. Sometimes local irritation runs so high as to render the use of an article of the class of remedies termed narcotics, (noticed page 186) necessary. This class, as we have already observed, is very numerous, and like the class of purgatives, some of them appear to act more effectually in allaying irritation in one part of the body than in another. For instance, the extracts of hedge hyssop, the garden lettuce, and of hemlock, the Prussic acid, according to very respectable authorities act more efficaciously in allaying irritation in the inner membrane of the windpipe and lungs than any other anodyne. The tincture of foxglove diminishes the action of the heart, when morbidly excited, and yet it increases that of the absorbent vessels. The colchicum allays irritation of membranes of the joints (rheumatic and gouty.) The aconite and henbane quiets excitement or irritation within the scull, and the deadly night-shade seems to act on the nerves of the face. In some cases of local irritation, as of the stomach and pharynx, the topical application of a stimulant capable of blistering the skin of the surface of the body, as the capsicum, will allay it; and others, which sympathetically stimulate the brain on being taken into the stomach, as spirit of turpentine and gin, will allay irritation in the kidneys and bladder. A stimulating electuary, termed Ward's paste, the basis of which is black pepper, taken into the stomach, has been found to allay the irritation of piles; and an infusion of cayenne pepper is a popular gargle in Italy for inflammation of the tonsils. The local action of anodynes, and indeed every other class of remedies, although much influenced by peculiarity of constitution, is an important and highly interesting part of practical medicine.

## THEORETICAL &amp; PRACTICAL MEDICINE, BY DOCTOR DAVID UWINS.

(Continued from folio 140.)

It is evident, from the leading clauses of the charter granted to the College of Physicians by Henry the Eighth, and by subsequent grants of the legislature, that the object of the said charter was the promotion of the science of surgery, as well as that of physic; indeed, it seems that the legislature were not aware of the science of surgery, or constitutional surgery, being a separate study, or the practice of it being confined to any set of men. In the third and concluding section of the charter, it is expressly stated, "Forasmuch as the science of physic doth comprehend and contain the knowledge of SURGERY, any of the said company or fellowship of physicians, being able, chosen and admitted by the said president and fellowship of physicians, may practise the science of physic and surgery both in London and elsewhere." Notwithstanding this clause, and clearly in direct opposition to the principal object of the charter, the college only admit as members the graduates of the English Universities, where surgery forms no part of their education; and, indeed, where even the rudiments of physic itself (according to their own definition of the term) are not taught!! They, indeed, consider a connexion with surgery to derogate so much from the dignity of a physician, that they will not admit a candidate for a licence even to practise medicine in *simple* cases of disease, so long as he continues a member of the College of Surgeons!!! The recently formed Society of *Physicians* of the United Kingdom were so weak as to suppose, that they should, by complimenting the College of Physicians, induce that body to remove them from the low rank of licentiates to that of *members* of their body; and poor Uwins, although a mere scribbler for a magazine, fancied, that, by forming the resolution not to meet a surgeon in consultation, (a laughable determination indeed, inasmuch as no surgeon, we are satisfied, would condescend to give him the opportunity), he should so far please the college as to induce them to promote the object of the said society, of which he is a member, i. e. to become Fellows of the college, and pretty fellows they would be. As much as we despise the narrow and illiberal bye-laws of the college, and their conduct towards scientific graduates of the respectable Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, we should be very sorry to see men of such illiberal minds admitted into it as those of the said society. Many of the Fellows of the college are unquestionably men of great scientific attainments and of liberal sentiments, and were they to take an active part in its government, (which, we trust, Mr. Brougham's bill for the incorporation of London with the Universities will induce them to do;) we are persuaded, that every impolitic and illiberal bye-law, or law which militates against the progress of the science of medicine, would be annulled, and a policy adopted more consistent with the present state of medicine. The separation of surgery from physic, which for many centuries has completely checked the progress of the latter department of medicine, it appears, took place in the year 1163,

under a decree issued by the Council of Tours, "to prevent physicians, who were then also ecclesiastics, from performing *bloody operations*!!! In consequence of this absurd edict, surgery was cast out of the bosoms of the Universities of Catholic countries, to be practised only by the most presumptive and most illiterate of mankind!!!

The Catholic spirit, so far as regards the obscurity afforded by the dead languages, or rather loaves and fishes, still prevailing in the English universities, the science of surgery is there considered unworthy of cultivation, although, in point of fact, it is the very basis of ancient and modern medicine!! There is something in this Catholic religion which debases every thing over which it has any influence, or with which it has any connexion. The most simple system of religion, and the best calculated to promote the happiness of mankind, as well as to bring forward the intellectual powers of man, has been so mystified, and the doctrines so perverted by crafty priests, as to stultify millions of the inhabitants on the most enlightened part of the world, for the support of imposture and the most infamous tyranny. This system of duping mankind, under the cloak of religion, is far more disgraceful than that of slavery, inasmuch as by it the dupes are rendered willing slaves to priestcraft, by enthrallment of Reason, whereas the purchased slaves are at liberty to exercise their minds. The object of the Catholic religion is, in fact, to prevent the expansion or maturity of that great gift of the Creator, which far surpasses human estimation—**Reason**. Although this faculty was given to man to enable him to distinguish good from evil, and truth from falsehood; and although it elevates him above the brutal tribe, (rendering him capable of religious notions and religious sentiments), it is not, according to the Catholic system of religion, to be exercised on religious subjects!! The weak dupes of it are to receive all explanations and interpretations from the priests only, who are in fact tools in the hands of some tyrant. Can that religion be of divine origin, which puts human reason at defiance? One would suppose that the reasoning power could not possibly be so far paralysed by priestcraft, that a person not insane should really believe in the most ridiculous, not to say ludicrous, doctrines of transubstantiation; to suppose that, when they receive the sacrament, they really take the blood which circulated in the veins of our Saviour, and the flesh which constituted a part of his body!!! Yet there are millions of *rational* beings, (as they consider themselves), who firmly believe in this extraordinary doctrine, and even consider those infidels who disbelieve it. One would suppose it was equally impossible that a human being, possessed of reason, should be such an idiot as to believe that a priest can possess the power of absolving his crimes, or believe that the covered car they occasionally conduct through the street, for their dupes to pay homage to, really contains a part of the godhead. To us the most extraordinary thing is, that any human being of a sane mind, or capable of reflection, should be so far stultified as to suppose that the monarchs or their tools the priests, really believe their own doctrines,

and that they should not be aware that they exult in their success in bringing their minds so completely under their influence. On the day of judgment what excuse can these wretched creatures have, for not having exercised the reasoning power their God had given them to guide them through life, in their religious ceremonies? and in "searching the Scripture, and in adhering to that which reason pronounced good." Were the converts to the Catholic religion capable of bringing their reasoning power into action, so as fairly to contrast the Catholic religion with primitive or genuine Christianity, or with the religion of the Protestant church, where reason is not blighted by mystery or the false doctrines or inventions of wicked men, they would emancipate themselves from the most disgraceful enthralment of mind to which rational beings can submit, viz. priestcraft and kingcraft.

Many of our readers will no doubt say, that the Catholic religion has nothing to do with medicine. It has so far to do with medicine, that the spirit of it pervades certain universities, the medical graduates of which style themselves *legitimate* physicians, and also the bye-laws of the college of physicians. Besides being hostile to the progress of science, it behoves every rational man, or friend to humanity, to enlighten the minds of those who have disgraced their species, by becoming its dupes. It is the duty of every member of an enlightened profession to contribute his mite towards keeping the lamp of learning properly trimmed, and furnished with even midnight oil, in order to keep off a "night of ignorance and barbarity," similar to that in which all Europe was buried for a long series of centuries, and in which certain Catholic powers are making efforts to replunge society. If Catholics will allow the rays of reason to fall on their religion, they will soon find themselves emancipated, as a thing of course, i. e. by becoming fit persons to take part in the government of an enlightened country.

To the learned Dr. Uwins, although a candidate for the rank of *legitimate* medicine, an apology is necessary for this long digression from the subject of his compendium of *theoretical* and *practical* medicine. The Doctor, notwithstanding the high compliment he has paid Dr. Good, by declaring his "study of medicine" to be "a noble specimen of what genius is capable of effecting, when backed by industry and regulated by taste;" and his profession to notice all the improvements of the moderns, has adopted the classification of diseases of the late Dr. Cullen!!! We suspect the Doctor, on studying Dr. Good's nosological arrangement, like many other wise men, found himself bewildered in words. Perhaps of all our Nosologies that of Cullen is the best. Diseases arising from different causes, and being modified by peculiarity of constitution, we are satisfied it is impossible to make an arrangement in classes, orders and genera, which can prove of any practical utility, or facilitate the acquirement of a knowledge of the nature of diseases, or of the mode of treatment. We may here notice the disease termed *jaudice*, which is ranked by Cullen with scrofula, syphilis, scurvy, and leprosy. Now this disease is very frequently the consequence of spasms, of biliary concretions, and of organic disease of the liver, and therefore belongs to different classes, according to its

cause or nature, and perhaps in no order could it be with less propriety introduced as a genus than that which Cullen has adopted. Again, pulmonary consumption, the most prevalent disease in this country, has no nosological rank as a *genus*, being introduced as a *sequel* of haemoptoe, although it is seldom preceded by haemoptoe. A nosological arrangement is perhaps necessary, to enable a lecturer to extend the history, symptoms, treatment, &c. of diseases to a three months' course, in order to entitle him to three guineas from each pupil. In a practical point of view, we disapprove of such unmeaning exhibition of pedantry ; for, at best, such classifications bear too near a resemblance to that system of teaching, technically termed *grinding*, wherein the student acquires his knowledge by rote, without attaching any precise ideas to his information,—wherein he may be instructed to answer particular questions at an examination, and yet totally incapable, when brought to the bed-side of a patient, to recognize the diseases he has thus studied. We shall now proceed to give Dr. Uwins' modes of treating diseases.

#### OF AGUE.

Indications are, first, to *abate* the *violence* of the paroxysm, and, second, to *prevent* its return—(most excellent !)

During the *cold* stage, give *warm* diluent liquids ; apply *warm* fomentations to the feet and legs ; use *warm* bathing, and administer *cordial* diaphoretics, as the following :

Take of Subcarbonate of Ammonia, six grains ;  
Mindererus's Spirit, three fluid drachms ;  
Syrup of Orange Peel, two fluid drachms ;  
Pure Water, one fluid ounce.—Make a draught.

Or,

Take of Emetic Tartar, one grain ;  
Syrup of Poppies, one ounce and a half ;  
Pure Water, four fluid ounces and a half.—Make a mixture.

Of which, two table-spoonsful may be taken for a dose.—Or,

Take of Mindererus's Spirit, half an ounce ;  
Ipecacuanha Wine, twenty-five minims ;  
Mixture of Camphor, one fluid ounce ;  
Syrup of Poppies, one drachm.—Mix for a draught.

From thirty to sixty drops of tincture of opium upon the accession of the fit ; or a drachm of sulphuric ether *undiluted*. (! !) Apply tourniquets to the limbs for a *quarter of an hour*. (!) An emetic before the occurrence of the *cold* stage.

Upon the occurrence of *hot* stage, administer *saline*, or *antimicrobial*, or *other* diaphoretics, according to the *degree* of *heat* and *strength* of action. Tincture of opium, bleeding. For local congestions, leeches, blisters.

Take of Emetic Tartar, one-sixth of a grain ;  
Pure Water, one ounce and a half.—Mix for a draught.

Take of Nitre Powder, half a scruple ;  
Simple Syrup, one drachm ;  
Pure Water, one ounce and a half.—(Mix for a draught ! !)

In case of constipation being *combined* with the fever, Epsom salt may be administered, either in full doses of an ounce, or in drachm doses, *combining* with saline medicinals; and, in some of these combinations, we need not be too much restricted by the laws of chemical affinity. (! ! !)

Take of Epsom Salt, one drachm;

Mindererus's Spirit, half a ounce;

Pure Water, one fluid ounce and a half.—For a draught.

(In this mixture, the sulphate of ammonia and acetate of magnesia are formed.)

To accomplish the second indication, remedies are had recourse to in the *intermission*; and of these emetics, purgatives, Peruvian bark, arsenic, and forcible impressions made upon the patient's mind, are the principal.

Take of sulphate of zinc, one scruple;

Pure Water, one ounce and a half.—Mix for an emetic draught.

Take of Decoction of Aloes;

Compound Infusion of Senna, of each, one ounce.—Mix for a purgative draught.

Take of Peruvian Bark, powdered, one drachm.—To be taken every second hour, during the intermission of fever, to be commenced in cases of long intermissions, eight or ten hours before the expected recurrence of the paroxysm.

Take of Extract of Bark, fifteen grains;

Compound Tincture of Bark, two fluid drachms;

Syrup of Orange Peel, one fluid drachm;

Decoction of Bark, one fluid ounce and a half.—Mix for draught.

The cascarilla, the cusparia, and other barks, are given for the same purpose as the Peruvian; and also the vegetable bitters and mineral tonics, but not with equal efficacy. It is sometimes found impossible to make the stomach receive a sufficient dose of the bark to answer the intention of the prescriber, and in that case the concentrated form of it, lately introduced into practice, may be had recourse to with much advantage.

Take of Sulphate of Quinine, two grains;

Aromatic Confection, a sufficient quantity.

Make into pills, to be taken every second hour.

(In this formula the sulphate of quinine is decomposed by the alk in the aromatic confection !)

When arsenic is administered in the cure of intermittents, (which, in the general way, is more speedy and efficacious in its operation than even the bark), the liquor of arsenic, of the London Pharmacopœia, which is an arseniate of potass, should be employed; the dose is six minimæ, gradually increased to fifteen, or more, two or three times a day. It may be joined with tincture of opium, as in the following formula.

Take of Solution of Arsenic, six minimæ;

Tincture of Opium, five minimæ;

Cinnamon Water, one ounce and a half.

Mix for a draught.

"Eight days administration of this medicine will be generally found sufficient for the *radical* cure of an *intermittent*."

A forcible impression made upon the patient's mind, has often broken the *habit* of the *intermittent*, and effected a thorough restoration to health. It is not necessary to say that *charms* act upon this principle.

When there is a tendency to *visceral* *obstruction*, small *alterative* doses of *mercury* must be alternated with the other *medicinals*, or given at night at the time you are employing *bark*, or *arsenite*.

Take of *Mercurial Pill* :

Extract of *Henbane* of each, five grains.

Mix and divide into two pills : to be taken every night, at bed time  
—or

Take of *Calomel*, one grain ;

Extract of *Hemlock*,

Extract of *Henbane* of each, two grains—make a pill, to be taken every night.

While the *secretions* are attended to, generous diet, and the moderate use of wine will be found requisite during the *intermissions*. As individuals are especially obnoxious to the recurrence of the malady from slight causes, these of course must be carefully guarded against.

The practice of attacking symptoms as they occur, of warming the body when it is cold, and of cooling it when it is too warm, is the routine treatment of that class of physicians which is not altogether inaptly denominated *old women*. Of the doctor's mode of treating *ague*, or of the elegance of his language, we suspect very few modern *surgeon-apothecaries* would be anxious to have the *honour* of being the author ; and if his mode of treating all diseases be equally scientific, no practitioner can be surprised at his resolution not to meet a *surgeon* in consultation in a *medical* case. *Policy* forms no small part of the study of a *London physician*.

Besides, the articles recommended by Dr. *Uwins*, Dr. *Good* notices the following—*capsicum*, *mustard seed*, *garlic*, and *bayberries*, common remedies with *Bergius*. His favourite composition was *capsicum* (five grains), and *bayberries* (two scruples), which he gave on the commencement of the cold fit, and repeated every day about the same hour for three or four times in succession. The *empy-rumatic* animal oil, as recommended by *Hoffman*, who found the dose of twenty to thirty drops administered six hours before the accession of the fit, to effect a cure. Dr. *Good* thinks this medicine has been too much neglected by the *moderns*. After commenting on the diversity of opinions, which for many years existed among members of the *medical profession*, respecting the virtues of the *Peruvian bark*, the doctor introduces the following quotation from *Morton* :—

"In 1658, Mr. *Underwood*, an alderman of the City of London, died while using it, and was instantly reported to have fallen a sacrifice to its power ; and so prejudicial was the effect of this rumour, that *Cromwell*, the *Protector*, who was attacked with an *ague* in the same year, was suffered to languish, and at length die, without an exhibition of the *bark*, his physician being afraid to

make a trial of it, in consequence of the fatal accidents that had so lately accompanied its use." The Dutch remedy for an ague, is composed of cream of tartar and bark powder, of each two ounces, and six cloves powdered. The dose of this powder is a drachm and a half taken every third hour. Fresh bay leaves, dried in the shade, in the dose, of one to two scruples in the beginning of the cold fit. This powder has been found very efficacious after the bark in the largest dose had been unsuccessful.

Morton's medicine, of one scruple of camomile flowers, ten grains of salt of wormwood, and the same quantity of calx of antimony, given every sixth hour.

Myrrh in powder (two drachms) taken just before the time of the expected fit, Dr. Heberden found to succeed in one case, which for a long time had resisted the power of the bark in large quantities.

Gentian root, willow bark, the vomic nut, and the leaves of the cherry bay, bitter almonds (emulsion), tormentel, galls, oak bark, the bark of both species of *Swietenia* or mahogany tree, the prussic acid, alum, oxydes of arsenic, iron, mercury, zinc, and copper, Dr. Good notices all the remedies which Dr. Uwins recommends, and from the order of it, we suspect Dr. U. was not a little indebted to Dr. Good's work.

The following is the only remark we consider worthy of notice in Dr. Good's chapter on the treatment of ague. "The most important season for medical operation is in the intermission of the paroxysm; since, however successful we may be in moderating the febrile attack, it is rarely we can depend on any plan which may then be adopted to prevent a recurrence of the fit." We have entered so fully into the treatment of ague in our last number, that we have nothing further to add to the present article.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE DINNER MEAL.

Dr. Paris fancies that he has ascertained a fact, of such importance to Merchants, Bankers' Clerks, &c, that, says he, "I am desirous to communicate it, viz.

"In all cases of feeble or imperfect digestion, the valetudinarian ought never to take his PRINCIPAL meal in a state of fatigue—and yet, says the Doctor, let me ask, whether there is a habit more generally pursued, or more tenaciously defended? Aye, proceeds the observant Doctor, and defended too upon principle!! the invalid merchant, the banker, the attorney, the government clerk," says he, "are all impressed with the same belief, that after the sedentary occupations of the day, to walk several miles to their villas, or to fatigue themselves with exercise before their dinner, or rather early supper, will sharpen their tardy stomachs, and invigorate their feeble organs of digestion. The consequence is obvious,—instead of curing, such a practice is calculated to perpetuate, and even to aggravate the malady under which they suffer; by calling upon the powers of digestion at a period, when the body is in a state of exhaustion from fatigue. Often have I, in the course of my practice in this town, cured the dyspeptic invalid, by merely inducing him to abandon so mischievous a habit."

If a merchant, or a clerk, either of a banker, attorney, or of

government office, were capable of walking *several* miles before dinner, we should suppose he could not be much of an *invalid*. If an invalid were so imprudent as to walk *several* miles before dinner, *i. e.* we presume ten or fifteen miles, he must expect to experience all the bad consequences of fatigue. The villas of those gentlemen are generally within the distance of four miles, and such a walk after confinement to a counting-house for five or six hours, must not only relieve the fatigued mind, but even invigorate the stomach, by exercising the muscles which had been in a state of indolence during the "*sedentary occupation*." The whole body by a "*sedentary occupation*," is unquestionably enfeebled; and moderate exercises, by amusing the mind, exercising the muscular system, and promoting the circulation in the extremities, will bring the stomach into action; and as to the *refreshing* effects of a dinner and a little wine, we presume "*invalid merchants, &c.*" are as competent to form as accurate an opinion of them *from experience*, as Dr. Paris from theory. Certain it is, if they were not to take such exercise, their systems would become plethoric, and if some organic disease should not take place either in the lungs, liver, or some internal viscus, apoplexy would probably terminate their lives. If invalids who are accustomed to exercise their minds in a sedentary state for five or six hours every day, or for six days out of seven, were not to take a walk before dinner, they would not only eat without an appetite, but that which they had forced into their stomachs, would produce a sense of oppression, and probably require three or four hours longer to pass through the process of digestion, than if the invalid had previously relaxed his mind, and exercised his muscular system even by a fatiguing walk, for the sense of fatigue from a long walk is speedily removed by a good meal, with a small proportion of wine.

Dr. Paris has discovered another fact of great importance to sick persons, *viz.* That the diet of a *sick* person ought *never* to combine *too much* nourishment in *too small* a space."!! A physician of ordinary talents, would suppose a *sick* person should not take *too much* of any thing, not even medicine, nor even such advice as the learned doctor is capable of giving, a little of which, no doubt, goes a long way. But says the doctor, when "*too much* nourishment in *too small* a SPACE is given, it will, even in health, be followed by *fermentation* instead of *digestion*!! So that *too much* nourishment, although in a small bulk, will make a healthy subject "*sick*." Now as to an article running into fermentation in the stomach, surely the process must depend on the nature of the article. If an animal jelly, free from vegetable matter, it will not ferment, whether the quantity be "*in too small a space*," or otherwise. "Although, says the doctor, we may admit the expediency of the *domestic maxim*, *a little and often*, yet this is to be received with limitation; no one, for instance, who possesses any *philosophical knowledge*, will adapt his practice to the notions of Sir William Temple, who asserted that the stomach of a valetudinarian was like a school boy, always doing mischief when unemployed, and that we should therefore not allow it any interval of repose. On this observation, the doctor begs to make the following remark: the conversion of aliment into blood, is effected by a series of elaborate processes, several of which are only perfectly performed during the quiescence of rest. It would seem, for instance, that the process of chylification, is incom-

tible with that by which the *first changes* are produced in the stomach: This is evident from the well-known fact, that our appetite for food ceases, when the former process commences, although the repast should at the time have been insufficient to satisfy the cravings of nature; whereas, in diseases of imperfect or depraved digestion, as in *diabetes*, *mesenteric consumption*, &c. we find that the appetite is never satisfied by the most nutritive meals. It merits notice also," proceeds the doctor, " that whenever the stomach be called into action, during digestion, the process will in weak stomachs be much disturbed, if not entirely suspended. These views have long since confirmed the doctor in the propriety of treating *mesenteric affections*, in a manner very different from that which is generally pursued; and I may add says he, the result has been very satisfactory." The plan to which he alludes " consists in enforcing longer intervals between each meal, which should be scanty, and in quantity short of what the appetite may require;" in this way the doctor thinks the *unwilling absorbents*, are " induced to perform their duties with greater promptitude and activity;" but, says he, " it is a practice which, from the extreme anxiety of friends and relatives, the feelings of craving and hunger, expressed by the patient, and the mistaken but universal prejudice respecting diet, it is always painful to propose and generally to enforce; where, however, circumstances have given me a full and unreserved controul, the advantage of the plan has been most decisive." The *nature* of the " *mesenteric affection*" and the *stage* of the disease, must be taken into consideration in the regulation of diet. In advanced cases of *mesenteric tubercles* or *consumption*, where the mesenteric glands are in a state of suppuration, it would be imprudent to *overload* the stomach; but if the patient be not allowed full meals, in case his stomach be equal to the digestion of them, the vital powers will often rapidly decline and the legs become edematous. As to the " *unwilling absorbents* being *induced* to perform their office with greater promptitude and activity," by small meals after long intervals, we really do not know what the doctor means. The emaciation attendant on a diseased condition of the mesenteric glands, is not from inactivity of the absorbents of the intestinal canal, but from the transmission of chyle to the blood being prevented by the tumified or diseased glands. The doctor, like all dogmatists, has forgotten the old *domestic* saying, "what is one man's food is another man's poison."

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### FLANNEL.

Important as this article of dress is, physicians, ancient and modern, differ much in opinion as to the propriety of wearing it next the skin in a variety of diseases, and during certain degrees of temperature of the atmosphere, whilst others condemn its use altogether, contending that when worn next the skin three or four years, it renders the body tender, and very susceptible of atmospheric changes.— Flannel possesses property which linen does not; being a bad conductor of the matter of heat, it retards the escape of the natural heat of the body to the atmosphere during cold weather, and vice versa. During warm weather, it certainly increases sensible and insensible perspiration, but, ~~not~~ not being absorbent, and the interstices of the flannel not close, evaporation of the secretions of the skin is not impeded; and in

consequence of this evaporation, the temperature of the skin and of the interior of the body does not run higher during the hottest days of summer, than during the coldest days of winter. In a climate so fickle as that of this country, often varying in temperature more than fifteen degrees in the short period of twelve hours, the use of flannel next the skin is a most important preservative of health; especially in persons who are predisposed to consumption, or subject to asthma, catarrhal cough, rheumatism, gout, bowel complaints, or any visceral disease, either acute or chronic. In irritative, or inflammatory affections of the skin, its mechanical action is apt to aggravate the complaint, but even in such cases it may be worn over very fine linen with great advantage; for by keeping up the sensible and insensible perspiration, it prevents obstructions in the glands or pores of the skin, which are common causes of numerous cutaneous eruptions, and inflammatory affections. Some physicians recommend their consumptive and rheumatic patients to wear flannel next the skin, only during the day time; but its use during the night, in such cases, is of as much importance as during the day time. Linen does not increase the secretion of the skin, having no mechanical action on it, and when the skin perspires from exercise, or from heat of atmosphere, it absorbs the matter, and by remaining moist, especially on taking rest after much exercise, it is very apt to disorder the general health, or occasion catarrh or rheumatism. Flannel, therefore, like tea to hypochondriacal ladies, keeps the body warm during cold weather, and cool during warm.

Dr. Uwins, in his *luminous* reports of diseases, in a monthly magazine, recommends the chamois leather, as a preventive or a remedy for rheumatism, &c. &c., in preference to flannel. The chamois leather greatly differs in all the essential points from flannel. In the first place, it is a soft application; whereas, the flannel is somewhat rough, acting continually, in a small degree, like a flesh brush, by which it promotes the circulation in the skin, and consequently its secretions. The chamois leather, again, is of close texture and an absorbent quality; and the perspirable matter not passing through it with such facility as through flannel, or even through linen, it becomes moist; and it is worthy of notice, that, when in that state, its temperature is, in some degree, lower than that of linen, in the same state, on the same person. The chamois leather is as good a conductor of the matter of heat as linen; whereas, flannel, if not a non-conductor of heat, is certainly a very bad one. In all the cases in which we have known the chamois leather worn, it has produced clusters of irritative eruptions of the skin. On what principle Dr. Uwins can recommend this leather as a more salutary article of dress than flannel, we are at a loss to surmise. Notoriety is, however, the order of the day, and to obtain it, a little novelty, however ridiculous, is necessary.

With respect to the objection made by some physicians to the continued use of flannel next the skin, viz. that it renders the body too susceptible of atmospherical vicissitudes, the effect is, unquestionably, the consequence of neglect in washing the body with cold water, once or twice a week, or the use of the cold-bath. It is a very erroneous idea, that on adopting the use of flannel next the skin, ablution with cold water or cold bathing is improper; for, on the contrary, they both contribute to promoting its salutary operation on the general health, and assuredly will prevent the morbid degree of tenderness of the system, which is apt to take place during the use of flannel next the skin, where they are neglected.

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 115.

To JULY 1, 1825.

VOL. X.

## PHYSIC.

### TEMPERAMENTS OR CONSTITUTIONS.

HAVING received several letters from very respectable subscribers, requesting a definition of some of the terms we have occasionally employed when speaking of certain conditions of the body termed temperaments or constitutions; we have thought proper to introduce an article on the different temperaments or constitutions as the best means of conveying to them the information they solicit. The subject, in a practical point of view, is of such great importance, that it behoves every person to have some knowledge of his temperament, not only for the purpose of preserving health or curing disease by medicine, diet, dress, exercise, &c. but to be able to acquaint his medical adviser with it, as well as the peculiarities of his body.

The records of medicine clearly shew, that the antient physicians of Greece were aware of the importance of paying attention to the constitution or temperament of their patients, in the treatment and prevention of disease. Hippocrates notices the different temperaments dependant on the proportion or conditions of the fluids of the body; which he supposed to be confined to four: viz. the blood, the yellow bile, the black bile, and phlegm. When the blood is in excess, the temperament or constitution is termed, *sanguineous*. When the yellow bile prevails, *choleric*; when the black bile, *atrabilious* or *melancholic*; and when phlegm, *phlegmatic*. The observant Boerhaave describes eight temperaments, which he denominates, the *warm*, the *cold*, the *dry*, the *moist*, the *bilious*, the *sanguineous*, the *phlegmatic*, and the *melancholic*.

The *Warm Temperament* he thus defines:—"A profusion of thick yellow hair, a florid complexion, red eyes, a thin, active, robust body, a full quick pulse, an irascible temper (soon appeased). The brain and the viscera of the chest, belly, and pelvis, he says, are strong and healthy, the vessels tense, and the fluid dense. He accordingly recommends a mild diluent diet as the best preservative of health in persons of a *warm temperament*.

The *Cold Temperament* he distinguishes by a "smoothness of the skin, thin hair, a pale complexion, a cold, weak, languid habit, a small slow pulse, and a cautious timorous mind. In this temperament, considering the solids to be lax, and the fluids thin or watery, he recommends warm strengthening diet, as the best means of preserving health. If a male of this habit be desirous to have healthy children, some writers recommend him to make choice of a wife of a *warm temperament*, and *vice versa*; advice which appears to us very rational.

The *Dry Temperament* Boerhaave describes as similar to the *warm*, the body being small, and the vessels contracted.

The *Moist Temperament* differs from the *dry* only in bulk, the cellular membrane being well loaded with fat.

The *Bilious Temperament*, is characterised by a profusion of black curly hair, a hard, lean, slender body, a brown complexion, large veins, a full, quick, strong pulse, obstinacy, and violence of temper. In this temperament, the excess is more in the solids than any fluid of the body, and is in many respects similar to the warm and dry. In the present time, these characteristics of the bilious temperament are disregarded, physicians in general attributing nearly all the diseases that assail human nature, to the influence of bile, differing in opinion more as to its quantity than quality; some sounding their theories on a deficient, and others on an excessive secretion of it; and as to invalids, ninety-nine of every hundred, whether their hair be black, grey, light, curly, or otherwise; whether the veins be large or small; the body lean, slender, corpulent, hard, or soft; their tempers be mild or violent, they consider their constitutions to be bilious; and whatever the nature of their disease may be, they obstinately persist in ascribing it to bilious influence!!

The *Sanguineous Temperament* is distinguished, according to Boerhaave, by auburn hair, soft flesh, a full habit, blue distended veins, a florid complexion, and a passionate temper (readily yielding). To preserve such a constitution from the inflammatory diseases to which this constitution is predisposed, Boerhaave recommends a temperate diet, exercise, and the occasional use of an active aperient medicine.

The *Phlegmatic Temperament*, is distinguished by a very smooth fair skin, white thin hair, (growing sparingly) a soft plump body, and very small veins. It approximates very nearly to the cold temperament, and therefore Boerhaave recommends a generous warm diet, and occasional use of a cordial stomachic, to keep off the diseases to which it is predisposed.

The *Melancholic Temperament*, is characterised by smoothness of the skin, black hair, emaciation and dryness, dark complexion, languor, perseverance, resentful disposition, and a penetrating mind. The blood vessels he represents to be firm, strong, and small, the fluids thick and tenacious. In this temperament he condemns the use of warm, dry, or acrid food, and recommends a cooling, relaxant, and emollient diet, as the best means of preserving the health of the body, and preventing mania.

Such are Boerhaave's descriptions of the different constitutions or temperaments of the human body, which, considering his attachment to his favourite system, founded on the hypothesis of the depravity of the humours (the humeral pathology) is highly creditable to him. Some modern writers have divided the temperaments into the *sanguine* (when the habit is full of good blood), the *serous* or *phlegmatic*, when the proportion of serum is too great; the *temperate*, when the blood vessels are not overloaded, and the serum not in excess; the *cacochymic*, when the juices of the body are depraved; and the *nervous* or *irritable*, when the nervous system is too susceptible, or the subject disposed to nervous irritations.

In conducting this work, we have particularly noticed the temperament or habits, which, in a practical point of view, we consider of great importance, as having a modifying influence on diseases, and rendering a deviation from the common routine practice of teachers, necessary. viz.—

The *Plethoric* or *Sanguineous*, when the sanguiferous system is overloaded with good blood, disposing the subject to inflammatory affections, apoplexy, &c.

*Leucophlegmatic*, when the system of blood vessels is in an opposite state to the plethoric. The serum of blood is in excess, the muscular system relaxed, and the cellular membrane loaded with serum, occasioning swelling of the legs. This constitution is disposed to worms, gleety secretions from the vagina or urethra, cancer, rickets, &c.

*Erysipelatous*, when the body is disposed to the peculiar inflammation termed *erysipelous*, either from a preternatural saline state of the blood, or some peculiar excitable condition of the nervous system. In this temperament, inflammation runs unusually high, and slight accidents are productive of considerable mischief, often in elderly subjects terminating in mortification.

*Nervous*, when the nervous system is preternaturally sensible, favouring irritative, inflammatory and spasmodic diseases, sometimes affecting the mind so as to produce the disease termed *hypochondriacism*.

*Scrofulous*, when the lymphatic system is disposed to the diseased action termed *scrofula* or *struma*, in which inflammatory and other diseases generally prove obstinate, partaking of scrofulous action, or exciting scrofulous disease.

*Rheumatic*, disposed on certain changes in the atmosphere to rheumatism, with which inflammatory and other diseases become complicated, prove obstinate, and in the treatment of which it is necessary to correct the habit.

*Arthritic*, or *Gouty*, in which common inflammation advances with unusual rapidity, and prove very irritative, giving way more to anodynes than abstraction of blood, and in which diseases of debility prove very obstinate, or often terminate fatally.

*Melancholic*, when the patient is disposed to melancholy or mania, and in which many diseases prove intractable.

Some practitioners assert that such distinctions are productive of no practical utility, because the nature of the malady, and not the constitution of the patient, must determine the treatment of every disease. This opinion is peculiar to a class of practitioners too numerous in this country, who are blind followers of their teachers, whose minds are in fact too narrow to divest themselves of prejudice, and too shallow to collect facts; and if by chance any occurrence should particularly excite their attention, too weak for observation and reflection, that is likely to prove useful to their patients. Those who are accustomed to a narrow circle, as the legitimate physicians of Oxford, who think themselves wonderfully clever, and most profoundly learned in medicine, when they can quote Hippocrates or Galen on any disease, cannot easily expand their ideas beyond the confined limits of their routine practice. They are like the ignorant native of Switzerland, who thinks his valley scarcely less than the whole world.

Some lecturers treat the doctrines of temperaments, from certain supposed morbid conditions of the fluids, with great contempt, because they imagine that the *modern* knowledge of the fluids of the human body, shows that the doctrine of vitiated fluids is without the smallest foundation. The late Dr. Fordyce condemned the hypothesis as erroneous, but he admitted that the appearances which occasioned

their formation were perfectly well grounded, and allowed that in certain persons born, bred up, and living in all the circumstances of others of the same community, certain temperaments do exist, and with this opinion, we think every practitioner who has profited by long experience, must coincide. With respect to the idea, that diseases are often dependant on, or aggravated by a morbid condition of the fluids of the body (on which the humeral pathology is founded), we are of opinion that much useful practical knowledge may be collected from this system, as well as from others, for all afford some useful information; and instead of abandoning these systems entirely, the man who is anxious to exercise his art for the benefit of his fellow-creatures, afflicted with disease, will separate the substance from the froth,—the practical facts from the flights of fancy. Mr. Abernethy is of opinion the fluids of the body are often vitiated by absorption of imperfectly digested food. He says part of the food (which has not been perfectly digested), is imbibed from the bowels, and renders the blood impure, and (in his opinion) there being no outlet for such impurities, but through the kidneys, they are a cause of foul urine, and for the presence of many substances in that fluid. Whoever considers the processes of nutrition of the body, by deposition, and the conveyance of unhealthy or old parts of the body, by the absorbents to the mass of blood, we think, must admit the blood must be impure, when the organs for separating such impurities from the mass of blood do not perform their offices. We might, in our opinion, with great propriety have noticed the temperament of the body termed *cacochymic*, signifying, according to the humeral pathology, a vitiated state of the fluids, especially of the mass of blood. Old as this doctrine is, it really appears to us to be the *basis* of the chylopoietic or blue pill system of Mr. Abernethy.

Objections may be made to some of the temperaments of the body we have noticed, particularly the gouty, the rheumatic, the scrofulous, &c. because they are dependant on *morbid* conditions—but this is not the cause; we are speaking only of such constitutions as are *disposed* to the diseases, and by which disposition, many maladies and even inflammation attendant on accidents, are aggravated. Many may object to them, because two or three sometimes occur in the same person, as the plethoric, the erysipelatous, and the gouty; but this fact, in our opinion, forcibly points out the necessity of keeping all of them in view in the treatment of any malady, either local or general. Whatever objections theorists may start against the temperaments we have noticed, we have no doubt practitioners, whose experience has enabled them to collect practical information, will be satisfied of the importance of a proper knowledge of them in the *practice* of medicine; and the physicians who do not attend to the temperament, or even temperaments of his patients, is only fit to talk Greek or Latin to amuse lunatics or maniacs by a variety of sounds. He is in fact a mere *stage* doctor, who attends more to the effect of a false shew of learning, than the effect of remedies. To practitioners aware of the importance of attending to the temperaments of their patients, the absurdity of laying down rules for prescribing scientifically, and of recommending a particular treatment for any disease, as by lecturers and authors of works on the "Practice of Physic," without any regard to the state of the

complaint or the temperament or peculiarity that may prevail, is obvious, and to inattention to these circumstances, many valuable remedies have fallen into disrepute.

### COSTIVENESS.

(Continued from p. 194.)

*Costiveness in the melancholic temperament.*—Some practitioners make little or no distinction between melancholy and hypochondriasis; and with respect to the state of mind as approximating mania, there is a very slight shade of difference; but in a practical point, there is a very wide difference; melancholy being independent of any disorder of the stomach, while hypochondriasis is often dependent and always more or less connected with an unhealthy state of the digestive organs, or of the ganglions within the abdomen.

Melancholy is distinguished from mania by being confined to a few objects or trains of ideas, whereas in mania it is general. Some ancient writers employed the term melancholy to signify insanity accompanied with gloom or despondency, without any attention to its being partial or general.

Dr. Good has noticed four varieties of melancholy; viz. gloom, restlessness, mischievousness, and self-complacency, all which are excited by the same causes, and owe their difference to peculiarity or even the natural dispositions of the mind. Fracastorio notices varieties from prevailing temperament. The *phlegmatic*, says he, are heavy; the *sanguineous* or *plethoric*, lively, cheerful, merry, but not witty; the *choleric*, are in rapid and perpetual motion, impatient of dwelling on any subject. An acuteness of wit belongs to most of the varieties, but not to all; and hence Diocles, in opposing Galen for holding after Hippocrates that gloom and terror are distinguishing signs of melancholy, observes,—“Upon serious consideration, I find some patients have nothing of these qualities, and others that exhibit every diversity of feeling; for some are sad without being timid, others timid without being sad; some are neither, and some both.” Spurzheim, the phrenologist, has noticed another curious variety, to shew that the mental faculties are double, and that each side of the brain contains a distinct set. “Tiedman,” says he, “relates the example of one Moser, who was insane on one side of the brain, and who observed his insanity with the other.”!!! Gall (Spurzheim’s partner) states that he attended a minister who had a similar disease for three years, and that he heard constantly for that period on his left side, reproaches, &c. and turned his head to that side in order to look at the persons. With his right side, says the doctor, he commonly judged of the madness of his left side. Long after his left side was cured, if he happened to be angry, or if he had drank more than he was accustomed to do, he observed in his left side a tendency to his former alienation. According to this theory, if a man exercises only one side of his brain, he will probably in some respect act foolishly; and on reflection, i. e. bringing both sides into consultation, or when the side which generally acts calls in the aid of the other side, he will discover his error. If this be really a fact, which we are much disposed to doubt, it satisfactorily accounts for the ideas some religiously insane people have had of being visited by a spirit, and of receiving communications from the Almighty. “By this theory we may

also account for dreams, in which the most ridiculous nonsense does not appear inconsistent or irrational, by the disordered side of the brain remaining awake whilst the healthy side slept.

The antients considered all the varieties of melancholy to be more or less dependant on the prevalence of black bile in the intestinal canal; and they accordingly prescribed purgative medicines, which they supposed to possess some peculiar property of carrying it off, and of correcting the biliary secretion. Their favourite remedy, for these purposes, was the black hellebore root, the powder of which they administered in the dose of twenty to thirty grains, once or twice a week. It is worthy of notice, that this article, which, in some constitutions, acts powerfully as a purgative, and in others scarcely produces any effect, always occasions very dark motions, which are more or less followed in nervous subjects by serenity of mind. Dr. Mead spoke very highly of it as a tranquillizing purgative, and a deobstruent; but Cullen having observed no good effect from it either in melancholy or any other disease, condemned it as a drastic medicine, possessing no advantage over aloes or any other purgative; in consequence of which, it has nearly fallen into disuse.

It is worthy of remark, that in most disorders or diseases of the brain of increased excitement, the faeces are more or less dark and offensive; and in cases of melancholy and mania, they are often nearly black; and in many remarkable cases of copious evacuations of black offensive faeces, dissection has proved that the colour was not produced by the bile; it was confined to the faeces in the colon, the contents of the upper intestines being of a natural colour, and the bile in the gall bladder and duodenum being of a healthy one. We have met with melancholy and very nervous subjects, who have stated, that they were greatly relieved by dark motions, and particularly when accompanied with copious discharge of hydrogen gas. The dark coloured faeces, and the hydrogen gas, were probably secretions of the glands of the inner membrane of the colon, which relieved the brain and nervous system. As different purgative medicines operate on different parts of the intestinal canal, and as they all produce faeces of different appearances, is it unreasonable to suppose, that some may produce such a secretion of faecal matter from the inner membrane of the colon, as may act more beneficial in affections of the brain and general nervous system, or in diseases of the mind, than others? We are, from the testimonies of the antients, and from the results of a few trials in cases of melancholy, inclined to entertain a high opinion of the black hellebore root, as a cerebral or brain purgative, in cases of melancholy, and in many nervous afflictions.

The extract of the recent root, made by evaporating a saturated tincture, with an alcali in a water bather, as directed for the alkaline extract of jalap, is certainly the best preparation of it. The dose is from one to fifteen grains made into pills with a little ginger powder, or it may be mixed with the alkaline extract of jalap and ginger powder in the following proportions:

Take of alkaline extract of Black Hellebore Root,

Ditto ditto of Jalap, of each, half a drachm;

Ginger Powder, ten grains.

Mix well together, and divide into fifteen pills; three of which may be taken once or twice a week. If the bowels should not be sufficiently

relieved during the intermediate days, five or eight grains of the alkaline extract of jalap, divided into two pills, may be taken every night. The treatment recommended (page 193, of our last Number) for nervous temperament, particularly amusing exercise, application of cold water to the head, the use of flannel socks, moderate diet, &c. &c., is proper in cases of melancholy.

### ASTHMA, HABITUAL COUGH, AND CONSUMPTION

We have received from several respectable practitioners, and from G. Baldwin, Esq. late Consul General of Egypt, (now residing in London,) very favourable reports of the decoction and the oxymel of the *seliqua dulcis*, (St. John's bean,) which grows in great abundance in the island of Malta. It is very productive of saccharine matter, and also imparts to vinegar or water a peculiar astringency. We find that the oxymel, in the dose of a dessert-spoonful to a table-spoonful, facilitates expectoration, allays irritation in the lungs, promotes digestion, and obviates costiveness,—effects which it is desirable to produce in many cases of asthma, constitutional cough, and pulmonary consumption. Mr. Baldwin has favoured us with a long account of the extraordinary efficacy of this article, in a variety of affections of the lungs; in many desperate cases of which it seemed to act like a charm, particularly in a bad case of diseased lungs, in the family of Mr. Slous, of Golden-square, which had been declared hopeless by his medical friends. The communication of Mr. Baldwin is so long that we are under the necessity of postponing the insertion of it till our next number. Mr. Baldwin, from the most praiseworthy motives of humanity, has procured a quantity of the article from Malta, and sent it to the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, in order that the afflicted with asthma, constitutional cough, or consumption of the lungs, may obtain it, or the oxymel of it, at a cheap rate. It has certainly the no small recommendation in affections of the lungs, of being incapable of doing mischief, and from the results of the trials that have been made of it, we have no hesitation in recommending it to the attention of the profession and of asthmatic and consumptive patients. The article, as received from Malta, he has directed to be sold at the rate of 4s. 6d. a pound (about the importation price,) and the oxymel at threepence an ounce, or 3s. 6d. a pint.

### THE NEW COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

On the 25th instant, this noble fabric, erected in Pall Mall East, (which does honour to the nation) was opened, with great pomp, in the presence of the Dukes of York, Sussex, Cambridge and Gloucester; Prince Leopold, the Cabinet Ministers, the Bishops of Lincoln and Chester, several noble Lords, the Primate of Ireland, the Speaker of the House of Commons, most of the Fellows, many licentiates, the President of the College of Surgeons, and about 200 visitors. The company was shewn into the library, (a spacious apartment ornamented with marble busts of his present Majesty, and the great luminaries of the profession, Harvey and Sydenham.) Soon after three o'Clock, the president, Sir Henry Halford, Bart., physician to his Majesty, in the full robes of office, entered the room, attended by the officers of the corporation. Having arranged himself in his chair, he commenced an oration in the Latin language. After thanking the members of the Royal Family, the nobility, and members of the House of Commons, &c: for the honour they had done the College by their presence, he proceeded to explain the great public utility for which the College was instituted, and

the importance of the museum of preparations of morbid parts, in the promotion of the science of medicine. He intimated that the science had, in fact, been so far advanced by the moderns, as to be a kind of leader or promoter of all the other sciences. He emphatically noticed the great advantage the science had derived from *Royal* patronage in the way of donations; and also the important mental labours of his immortal predecessors, Harvey, Ratcliffe, Sydenham, &c. But, said he, to no individual is the highest rank of the profession more indebted than to the late Dr. Baillie,—to whose memory he paid a most feeling and impressive tribute of esteem and respect; not only as a man of science, but as a man, whose character for integrity, &c. was well worthy of imitation. He forcibly exhorted the members of the College to support the high character which they had maintained, and concluded with a pious aspiration, that the institution might remain an *imperishable* monument of public munificence and *national* advantage. The oration was delivered in an impressive manner, and heard with deep and evidently gratified attention.

After the ceremony, the company adjourned to another room, where a sumptuous cold collation was displayed with the choicest wines, at the head of which Sir Henry took a seat. After regaling themselves a few minutes, the Duke of York gave the toast "Success to the College of Physicians," which was drank with enthusiasm. The Duke of Cambridge then proposed the health of Sir Henry Halford, the President of the College, which was drank in a manner most complimentary to Sir Henry. The royal Dukes and noblemen present seemed to enter most cordially in the gratification felt by the president and fellows of the college, at the great improvement both of the situation and convenience of their college; and all departed highly delighted with the splendid and certainly interesting ceremony they had witnessed, except some licentiates, who were not a little chagrined on not having been introduced to the fellowship in the presence of the royal and noble visitors. Sir James M'Grigor, the head of the Medical Board, a physician of scientific attainments and most pleasing suavity of manners, was the only licentiate that was admitted a member.

We were credibly informed some months since, that his Majesty expressed a wish, that on opening the New College, all the Licentiates should be admitted as Members; but Sir Henry soon satisfied his Majesty of the impropriety of such a measure. The College required a residence only of two years at an University, to render a person possessing a medical diploma, an eligible applicant for a licence; and surely such a man could not be a proper person to be admitted a fellow of the College, or to have any share in its government. There are unquestionably many Licentiates whose admission into the College would do them credit; but we should be very sorry if all of them were admitted. A class of sub-Physicians is necessary, and many among the list of Licentiates merit no higher rank. The resolutions of the "New Society of Physicians of the United Kingdom," emphatically tell us what they would do were they admitted Members of the College. The President of the College is a Physician of great scientific attainments, and liberality of mind; and we may say the same of the majority of the Fellows: and were they to take an active part in the regulations of the New College, which we have reason to think they will, we have no doubt, they will adopt a liberal policy, and annul those bye-laws which militate against the progress of the science of medicine. By cordially joining Mr. Brougham in his endeavours to establish an university in London, or making London an appendage to Oxford and Cambridge for medical students, then indeed they will have done more for the honour of their college and the benefit of mankind, than even the immortal Harvey, Ratcliffe, or Sydenham, by forming the first medical school in the world. As to the College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and the Professors of Medicine of Edinburgh, they have tacitly acknowledged that many of the graduates of that university are not deserving of higher rank in medicine in the metropolis than the London College of Physicians have given them, viz. of licentiates, to practise in simple cases of diseases. The majority of licentiates are very conceited, overbearing, mannerly, ungentlemanly, and pusillanimous. The fellows of the College are, generally speaking, humane and liberal to their patients, and their conduct gentlemanly towards practitioners. In our next number we intend to expose the mean conduct of some of the Licentiates who are desirous to be admitted Members of the College.

## TIC DOULOUREUX.

Mr. Henry, of Sligo, assistant surgeon to the 66th regiment, has communicated to Dr. Macleod and Mr. Bacot of London, two cases of this most distressing disease, in which the external application of the deadly nightshade proved successful.—As the cases are interesting we shall give them somewhat in detail.

Case 1.—Serjeant John Gale, hospital-serjeant, 66th regiment, thirty-nine years of age, delicate, subject to inflammatory attacks, went to bed on the night of the 2d of March 1824, quite well. He awoke with a strange pulsation, and tingling over the right eyebrow, which soon increased to a sensation of heat and tenderness, and at length to a most excruciating pain, extending across the temple, and shooting down the cheek. This was attended with a sense of constriction of the eyeball, and a copious effusion of tears. The seat of the pain appeared to be in the frontal bone, above the orbit of the eye, (the superorbital foramen.) The paroxysm lasted two or three minutes, when there was an interval of partial, and sometimes complete ease, for five, six, or ten minutes; then the same symptoms recommenced, and, after four or five hours of alternate torture and ease, the disease ceased, having apparently worn itself out. The forehead and temple were benumbed, and the day following tender to the touch.

The following night the paroxysms, which recurred as frequently, were more severe.

Dr. Burton now attended the patient with Mr. Henry. From the supposition that the disease was in some way connected with general vascular as well as topical fulness, (the man's face being very florid,) they adopted a depleting treatment. Blood in considerable quantities was abstracted, generally and locally, the bowels were briskly purged, blisters were applied to the right temple, and behind the ear. The patient was confined to bed, and kept on spoon diet; and all sources of nervous irritation were carefully avoided. Notwithstanding this method of cure (apparently so plainly indicated by the symptoms) was carefully carried into effect, the patient derived very little advantage from it. The attack coming on regularly every night, and his health suffering much, the physician and surgeon thought of dividing and removing a portion of the frontal ramification of the ophthalmic branch of the fifth pair of nerves, which was clearly the seat of the disease.

The Doctor (perhaps fortunately for the sufferer) being much indisposed, the care of the patient devolved on Mr. Henry. In reading cases of *tic douloureux*, Mr. Henry observes, it had often occurred to him that some powerful sedative medicine, concentrated and directed to the seat of the pain, might be useful; and, by the analogy of the direct influence of the deadly nightshade, on the pupils of the eye, he inferred that it might be that medicine. It appeared probable to Mr. Henry, the same *subtile* and *powerful effuvium*, which, through an intricate and circuitous channel, could contract the fibres of the iris, through the medium of its nerves, might also control the morbid action of a nerve lying almost in contact with it, or produce at least some change which would be beneficial. The name of *Belladonna*, (deadly nightshade) observes Mr. H. "pointed out its peculiar

virtues in diseases connected with the skin; since it was so called by the Italians, from its use as a cosmetic amongst the ladies of Italy."

Mr. Henry accordingly moistened about ten grains of the extract of deadly nightshade, with a few drops of water, and, during a violent paroxysm, *rubbed* the paste over the eyebrow for about three minutes, as near as he could judge, where the frontal nerve emerges, (we never met with a case which admitted of being rubbed.) The result was an instantaneous abatement of the pain. It however returned in half an hour; but, on that night (which was the twelfth from the first attack,) the patient slept better, and had fewer and shorter fits of pain, than on any preceding one since the commencement of his illness. The same application was repeated on the next night, with similar good effect. On the fourteenth night there was an intermission. On the fifteenth the medicine was again applied, and the patient passed the night tolerably well. The disease continued to yield; and, finally, in three weeks the man was quite free from tic-douloureux.

It must not however be concealed, adds Mr. Henry, that since the above period, Serjeant Gale has had two or three twitches in the same nerve, but not productive of any serious inconvenience or pain. So convinced is he of the good effect of the remedy, that, on these occasions, he has had recourse to it of his own accord; and he states that it has always relieved the pain in his eyebrow.

Case 2.—Mrs. Margaret M'Kim, a lady residing at Ballimar, within a mile of Sligo, fifty years of age, of plethoric habit, and apparently healthy; was attacked with a sensation of creeping and tingling over the right eyebrow, on the evening of the 26th of last March, which gradually advanced to an involuntary convulsive movement of some of the muscles of the eye, with lancinating pain over the brow, radiating from it across the temple and down the cheek up the forehead, and into the orbit of the right side of the face. The acuteness of the pain continued only three or four minutes, was followed by about a quarter of an hour's ease, and then came on as bad as ever. It was so extremely distressing, that during seven nights, sleep was altogether banished; and the patient was quite miserable during the day, in the anticipation of what awaited her at night. The succession of paroxysms constituting (as it may be termed) the fit of the disease, lasted about six hours; and in this, as well as in the case of Serjeant Gale, an unpleasant feeling of numbness, and slight irregular twitches of the muscles of the eyelids, were left behind.

On the 6th instant, Mr. Henry was requested to see this patient. No medicine having been taken, and, with the exception of fomentations, no external application used, the case was considered a favourable one for the trial of the power of the deadly nightshade. Mr. H. told Mrs. M'Kim, that he had used a medicine once in a case similar to her's, and would try its virtue again on her disease, if she had no objection; adding that, very probably, it would act like a charm, in soothing and removing the pain. She consented immediately. About the size of a pea of the extract was moistened with a little water, and *rubbed* with the finger over the seat of the pain. The friction was continued about five minutes, when the pupil

of the right eye became considerably distended; the application was then discontinued. In less than ten minutes the lady exclaimed, "I feel no pain!" about five minutes more elapsed, when the convulsive twitchings of the muscles of the eyelids also ceased; and from that hour till the present, the patient has not had the slightest return of the disease, and is now in excellent health.

Mr. H. observes, he is not aware this valuable medicine has ever been used *externally* for the cure of tic douloureux before. The leaves of the plant, says he, have been *frequently* employed in dispersing indolent scrofulous and schirrous tumours; and, in a late medical publication, (the new *Medico-chirurgical Pharmacopœia*) they have been recommended as useful, in obstinate chronic rheumatism. It is quite possible, continues Mr. H., that in the wide field of foreign and domestic medical literature, (to which from local circumstances Mr. Henry has not had access,) the above-mentioned virtues of the belladonna may have been noticed and recorded; but its employment by him, was solely attributable to the consideration of its direct influence over the nerves, as mentioned in the case of Serjeant Gale.

Mr. Henry thinks it is likely that the publicity which the last effected cure has attained in his neighbourhood, may afford him another opportunity of employing the remedy in this dreadful malady. It is his intention, in the event of this occurring, to use the extract of the datura stramonium; (which also possesses the power of dilating the pupil of the eye) and to compare its virtues, if it have any, with those of the deadly nightshade.

We have noticed in a late number, the beneficial effects of the topical application of the extract of the deadly nightshade in a most distressing case of tic douloureux. It proved only temporary, and the disease was afterwards subdued by the topical and internal use of the prussic acid. The disease however returned in a few weeks, when the prussic acid, even in increased doses, had no effect. The extract of hemlock was afterwards applied over the seat of the disease, which succeeded in subduing it, and the patient continues it with the view of preventing a relapse.

For the following case of tic douloureux, cured by galvanism, we are indebted to Mr. Agnew, a scientific surgeon of London.

James Wilson, seaman, aged 28, was brought to me for advice, by an old messmate, on the 17th of last April, labouring under the following symptoms, viz. severe darting pain in the situation of the right infra-orbital nerve, extending over the greater part of the same side of the head, and often particularly distressing in the right ear, passing along the angle of the jaw to the throat, and producing some difficulty of swallowing. He was frequently annoyed, also, with a painful sensation at the tip of the tongue, and convulsive motions of the upper lip, accompanied by an irritable state of the membrane of the nose, and occasional sneezing. His general health was tolerably good, though his bowels were generally rather torpid; his symptoms had continued for upwards of seven months, with little mitigation, under various plans of treatment, adopted by the surgeon of his ship. I applied the galvanic fluid, placing one conductor immediately behind the right

mastoid process, and the other on the situation of the infra-orbital foramen, moving it occasionally over all the affected parts of the head, and sometimes touching the extremity of the tongue. I continued the galvanism 20 minutes daily, for twelve successive days, at the expiration of which all the symptoms had vanished. For the first five days the galvanic influence was employed in a very gentle manner, which not evidently producing much effect, it was used so powerfully during the other seven, as to excite violent convulsive motions of the muscles of the face, and a copious flow of tears. No medicines were used during the cure, except two doses of the sulphate of magnesia. I saw this patient about ten days ago, when he informed me that his symptoms had not again returned. In reference to this case, I have only to remark, that the patient suffered no inconvenience from the galvanism, excepting a slight headache for two or three hours after each application.

JOHN AGNEW,

Surgeon Medical Electrician, and Galvanist.

89, St. James-street, St. James's-square, June 13, 1825.

#### INDIGESTION, &c.

No. 31, Southampton Row, Russell Square, April 23d, 1825.

SIRS—The following is the substance of a case delivered to me by Peter Cator, Esq. barrister-at-law, late of the Inner Temple.

In the month of September 1822, this gentleman applied to me for relief from a very great derangement of the digestive organs, attended with an extraordinary prostration of strength that unfitted him from the least exercise of walking. His stomach was in a state of great irritation, and with a craving appetite, that was, as he expressed it, never satisfied, and every thing he ate turned sour, and occasioned heart-burn; the bowels were most obstinately confined, the evacuations pale to a degree, indicating defective secretion of bile; the urine was also colourless:—he required two ounces of castor oil as an aperient to produce even a gentle motion; his pulse was extremely feeble and variable, and the system was in a state of complete disorder—he was unfit to pursue his professional duties, not only from extreme depression of corporeal strength and animal spirits, but also from the confused state of his mind, loss of memory, and incapability of fixing his attention to the subject matter of his professional avocation. His disorder, though of short continuance, had increased rapidly, and threatened fearful results. The means employed were mild aperients, with an alkali, a generous diet, and the application of galvanism, which was made daily for about a fortnight, and afterwards occasionally. From this treatment the patient began to recover rapidly, the morbid irritation of the stomach was subdued, the liver performed its functions with increased activity, all the secretions became natural and healthy, and the pulse strong and full, the nervous irritation ceased, the strength was regained, and the animal spirits returned with an equal flow, while the mental capability was perfectly restored in the period of about six weeks. Since the middle of January 1823, Mr. Cator authorizes me to state, that he has never had occasion to take any aperient medicine; and, notwithstanding he has been much in society, made a liberal

use of luxurious dishes and choice wines, he has been perfectly re-established in his health, and was so fully satisfied of the permanent benefit he has obtained, that he has gone out to Madras, to practise as a barrister in that presidency. Mr. Cator called on me a few weeks ago, to present me with a detailed statement of his case, expressing his sense of the service I had rendered him, and requested, that as it might be deemed too long for publication in its present shape, I might convey the substance of it to the public in any of the medical journals I should judge proper, and that his connexions, who move in a most respectable rank in society, and of whom several have been my patients, will, during his absence, fully confirm, if necessary, the facts here stated. I am, Sir

Your most obedient servant,

M. LA BEAUME.

I have enclosed a letter from a respectable gentleman of Paramana, Surinam, which I hope you will deem worthy of insertion in your valuable publication.

*The Editors of the Monthly Gazette of Health.*

Paramana, Surinam, February 3, 1825.

MY DEAR SIR—You will, I fear, before this, have set me down for an ungrateful fellow, in not sooner acquainting you with the benefits which I continue to derive from your professional attentions during my late visit to England. For a great portion of the first period of my service here, between three and four years, I am convinced, from my sensations, that there was an adhesion of the liver to some part of my side, or of the pleura; and the hepatic functions, in consequence, were altogether so completely deranged, that I could not, as I told you, go on without calomel, for two days together, using the mercurial ointment to my side externally, as well as taking the pills. I need not dilate to you on the cruel martyrdom, the suicidal sufferings of my condition, from a complaint of such a nature and progress here, under an almost vertical sun, in the pestilential swamps of Guiana. If the government had not kindly indulged me with a leave of absence, I could not have survived six months longer. With scarcely strength enough left for embarkation, I took my passage for Europe, and immediately on my arrival in London waited upon you, as I had been recommended to do before I sailed, since which, although during the whole period of my stay in England, my mind was kept in a state of agitation, by a succession of private afflictions that would scarcely allow any medical prescription a fair trial, I have been gradually on the mend, and even since my return here, have continued to derive such benefit from your administration of galvanism, that I have never had recourse to *calomel*, and *seldom occasion for any medicine at all*. The climate, in other respects, is as oppressive as ever, and keeps me in a constant state of low fever, which deprives me of all sleep by night, except in snatches of half an hour, and necessarily of all strength in the day, and I have been afraid, lately, was beginning to affect again the peristaltic departments of my economy, but I have succeeded in galvanizing myself with the batteries which you were so good as to provide for me to bring out with me, and, I think, with as much benefit as I derived from their employment by you, but I cannot make them act without about three times

the quantity of muriatic acid which you directed, and some of the bars when I touch them, seem to me to discharge a greater quantity of fluid than others,—I mean to say, to act irregularly, and a low bar to form a circle of more force than one higher in the series. This, I dare say, is either the climate, or my mismanagement, probably the latter, but I apprehend it is of no consequence, if I produce the same sort of effect I perceived with you.

We have just lost another member of this court for the adjudication of slave ships, in which I have the situation of judge, which leaves me the only one surviving of the four original commissioners appointed in 1819: it is, I am afraid, therefore, beyond all reasonable hope that I should survive another three years, steaming in this kettle of miasma; but if I should, I shall certainly, in a great measure, if not wholly, ascribe it to the service you rendered whilst in England to,

Dear Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,  
*Michael La Beaume, Esq. No. 31, Southampton Row,  
Russell Square, London.*

C. E. L.

## WARTS.

A scientific surgeon of London informs us, that he has found the topical application of the arsenical liquor of the London Pharmacopœia to succeed in destroying a cluster of warts after the nitrate of silver, (lunar caustic) the solution of the muriates of antimony, and of iron, the red precipitate, pure potass and savin powder, had failed. He applied it every other morning, by means of lint, for about four hours, and directed the part to be dressed in the intermediate time with mercurial ointment, till the morbid productions were entirely destroyed. Finding that the skin of the parts, in a few weeks, exhibited a warty appearance several times after they had apparently been destroyed to the very basis, he prescribed the tincture of muriate of iron to be taken in the dose of eight drops in a wine-glass of water three times a day. This remedy succeeded in destroying the disposition in the part to the reproduction of the excrescences; he was of a leucophlegmatic habit, and his countenance sallow. He adds, they were clearly not syphilitic.

## INCIPIENT CANCER.

The case of incipient cancer, to which we have alluded in our 113th Number, as having gradually decreased under the application of the ointment of belladonna and mercury of the new Medico Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, (ung. belladonnæ et hydrarg.) has disappeared, and the seat of it is only to be discovered by a slight degree of thickening of the integument from adhesion of the cells of the adipose membrane immediately under the skin. Two correspondents, one under the signature of *Chirurgus*, and the other *Philantropus*, having expressed doubts of its having been a *true* case of incipient cancer, we consider it our duty to state, that the patient, (Mrs. Masse) aged 55, of a leucophlegmatic habit of body, had been under the care of Mr. Carpe, and Mr. Bacot, surgeon to St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, and that the tumified breast had been examined by Mr.

Jeffreys, at the request of Mr. Bacot, all of whom urged her immediately to submit to the amputation of the whole breast. A respectable surgeon at Brighton, who had seen it about two months before she applied to us, also pressed the immediate removal of the diseased mass by the knife. Mr. Carpue, who had watched its growth for nearly two years, (during which time she had been under his care), earnestly advised her not to lose any time in experiments, as it would soon advance so far, as to render the propriety of the operation questionable. When we first examined the part, it had all the characters of true scirrhus, and appearing to be too far advanced in the suppurative stage to justify a recommendation of the plaster, we advised her to muster resolution to go through the operation ; she replied, that if the plaster, which had succeeded in our practice in a case similar to her own, with which she said she was acquainted, did not answer her expectation, she would follow our advice as to the operation. The plaster was accordingly applied, and produced the happy effects which we have noticed in our 113th Number.

## WOUNDS RECEIVED ON DISSECTING DEAD BODIES.

The editors of an American medical journal have published the following simple method of rendering wounds received on dissecting dead bodies harmless, which it seems has been successfully adopted in the anatomical theatres of Philadelphia. Had such a simple plan of prevention "struck the philosophic mind" of the *sensible* Dr. Thomson, whose *mental* and *corporeal* sufferings from a puncture he received on sewing the integuments of the body of a patient he had examined, we lately noticed, what mental agitation would it not have prevented ? Dr. T.'s narrative, we are told by the editors of a medical journal, is a pretty exhibition of medical science, or modern scientific treatment. At any rate, considering the melancholy subject, it was not a little amusing, and will no doubt afford Dr. Lauder, who has *purchased* his *practice*, an opportunity of *relauding* his *philosophical* friend. " Whenever the fingers or hands are cut or punctured, the part is speedily washed with warm water and soap, and the wound sucked forcibly for a considerable time, until thoroughly freed from any matter that may have been introduced, or the suction is continued till blood ceases to flow. A piece of court plaster is then kept over the injured part until it be healed. Such is the certainty with which this process averts any evil consequences, that the students who adopt it feel no uneasiness relative to cuts or punctures, which, in the old fashion of trusting to caustics, would give rise to the greatest anxiety. Where the cuts or punctures have been so slight as to escape observation at the time they were received, and severe irritation and inflammation have commenced, all the unpleasant symptoms have been entirely removed by this operation.

Dr. Gordon, who made this communication, observes, " the advantages given us by this mode of treatment are very evident, on comparing the present with the past season. Last season several of my class suffered very severely. The attendant on the rooms, from a slight scratch on his thumb, nearly lost his life, and was only saved by

the suppuration of his axillary glands. In my own person, I three times suffered dreadfully: in one instance, the whole arm swelled with immense irritation, accompanied by the most sickening sense of prostration, and several weeks elapsed before I could use my hand. In every instance the injury was slight, and had been promptly treated with pure potass or butter of antimony, both of which I believe, without destroying the poison, added to the irritation.

This season we have had fully as many cuts, punctures, and scratches from dissecting instruments, without the least inconvenience. One member of my class had slightly punctured his finger under the nail, and had applied the caustic alkali; his finger and hand were becoming stiffened, and the peculiar irritation had begun to affect his fore arm. I pared the nail as closely to the wounded surface as possible, and directed him to suck it forcibly; which being done, a piece of court plaster was laid over the end of the finger, and a poultice kept on during the night. The next day the tension and irritation had disappeared. That such symptoms are not produced by the caustic, I know by full experience. The caustic causes much irritation, at the moment of its application, to surfaces injured in any way except with anatomical instruments; but is not followed by any of the circumstances produced by the terrible poison of the human body.

"During this winter," proceeds the Doctor, "I have myself been wounded very frequently with a variety of instruments; even having my hand lacerated by a long used and thickly coated saw. I have been punctured slightly and deeply in the sides and extremities of the fingers, while dissecting bodies in various stages of putrefaction, without being followed by the slightest injury, and which, without the treatment mentioned, must have produced most serious, if not fatal, results." A similar practice is prevalent among butchers, who are guided by common sense instead of "philosophical principles."

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## TUMOURS CURED BY ELECTRICITY.

(Communicated by Mr. Agnew.)

Mr. C. R. had a large indurated tumour, (larger than a goose's egg,) on the left side of the neck, about half way between the middle of the clavicle, and the angle of the jaw, which, when examined, conveyed a distinct sensation of partial fluctuation. It was not attended with any pain, and was inconvenient merely from its size. He is of a scrofulous constitution, with a florid complexion, and enjoys perfect general health. He had taken a variety of medicines, under my own direction, for three weeks, which reduced the swelling to one third of its original size. It becoming stationary, I was induced to try the effect of electricity. I therefore commenced the application of it, on the 3rd of May last, using sparks, and the vibratory motions, on alternate days. This plan I continued until the 7th inst: by which time the tumour had entirely disappeared. The application of electricity was, of course, confined to the swelling. It frequently produced considerable pain and inflammation, which rendered it necessary to use poultices at nights. So far as I am able to judge, the swelling arose

from an *enlarged cervical gland*, and was not an *independent tumor*. This patient is 23 years of age.

I have lately met with a case of a tumor in the calf of the left leg of a poor woman, about the size of a nutmeg, which was removed by nine applications of electricity, in the form of sparks.

Two other cases, in which I have found electricity beneficial, I shall not detail at length, but merely state, that the one was a case of obstinate ulcerated chilblains on both heels of a girl, eight years of age, and the other that of a steatoma, the size of a small orange, over the metacarpal bone of the right fore-finger, both of which were cured in a few days by electrical sparks. I may here remark, that I have never seen a case of chilblains which was *not* cured by the electric fluid employed in the form of sparks.

Mr. Agnew adds, that he is preparing for the press a small work on *Medical Electricity and Galvanism*, in which he will fully develope his opinions relative to their application in the cure of disease.

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#### AN IRON NAIL SWALLOWED.

The following interesting case of an iron nail, of about the length of an inch, swallowed by a child, lately occurred in the practice of Mr. Thomas, a scientific surgeon, of Pembroke Dock.

M. Naptun, an infant eighteen months old, swallowed an iron nail, about an inch long. On his arrival, Mr. Thomas found the child in strong convulsions, which he was told, occurred immediately after the nail had slipped into the throat. On examining the sauces, no portion of it could be discovered, and being large, and having a rough head, Mr. T. hesitated on the propriety of administering an emetic; he ordered a warm bath, which soon relieved the convulsions. Spontaneous vomiting ensuing, he aided it by giving warm water: the irritating cause, however, remained in the stomach. The infant being in some measure relieved, Mr. T. recommended absolute rest, in a recumbent posture, and the bowels to be kept mildly and regularly open. On the fourth day the motions were black, with a retention of urine; the latter being removed, all went on well till the seventh day, without any portion of iron passing, when a similar train of symptoms arose, viz. vomiting and convulsions, which, however, gave way, in an hour or two, to the same measures as at first adopted; gradual improvement now took place till the fourteenth day, when the infant suffered for a few hours, as in the first instance, and the symptoms again recurred on the twentieth; during the intervals her health was very good, free from pain, she sucked well, and slept naturally. From this period the child improved rapidly; yet no appearance, other than the dark coloured stools on the fourth day of the nail passing from the bowels, could be discovered, although the motions were regularly watched for many weeks.

To this case Mr. Thomas adds the following question:—Is it not likely these fits of suffering, at such regular intervals, were brought on after the first day by the nail's attempts to pass the pylorus? (rather the efforts of the stomach to pass it through the pylorus.) The case Mr. T. thinks, shows the power the gastric juice has of dissolving

substances in the stomach, it having evidently dissolved the iron nail, with comparatively little derangement of the natural functions. The chemical action of the gastric juice on iron is well known to the profession, and the mischief to be apprehended from the accident was from the point of the nail. This case reminds us of that of a child aged about seven years, the daughter of a physician of Hereford, who swallowed a shilling. The doctor very judiciously adopted no treatment to bring it up by an emetic, or to baste it through the intestinal canal by an aperient medicine. The health of the child, which had from birth been very bad, gradually improved after the accident, which the doctor attributed to the mechanical action of the coin. She never complained of any pain in the stomach or bowels which could be attributed to the shilling, and we have no recollection of its having been discovered in the faeces. A nail, from its form, is certainly more likely to injure the stomach than a shilling, but the solution of the silver by the gastric juice is more likely to injure the inner membrane of the stomach and intestines than that of iron. The chemical action of the gastric juice on iron is much more rapid than on silver, and consequently not a sufficient quantity of the latter could be dissolved by it in the course of twenty-four hours as to inflame or irritate the stomach or intestines.

We shall conclude this article with a query to the College of Physicians, or the advocates for separating physic from surgery. Does this accident belong to the province of the surgeon, or of the legitimate physician?

#### PRESERVATION OF DEAD BODIES.

Many of the customs and modes of the antients to exercise the mind, were evidently founded on rational principles. In a former Number, we have noticed the exercise of the body and mind by the game termed "fives," which was instituted by the antients to exercise the muscles of those who lead sedentary lives, as taylors or clothiers. This exercise had from time immemorial prevailed in Ledbury, till the conscientious vicar deemed it sacrilege, in consequence of the ball being played against the church wall. The spot of ground was accordingly covered with grass, for the benefit of his other flocks, (sheep and horses) and the men, who were thus deprived of their evening source of health, resorted to public houses to amuse their minds!!

An American physician (Dr. Godman) has lately discovered whisky to be a better preservative of animal bodies than any article that has hitherto been employed; but whether the antient philosophers of Ireland, from a knowledge of this property, introduced it for the purpose of securing the living body from disease, is a question which the doctor has not ventured to decide. It has been, and still continues, the "Balm of Gilead" of that country, and to its preservative powers, many thousands annually fall victims. The following are Dr. Godman's remarks, on the preservative powers of this liquor.

The materials recommended for preserving dead bodies, are mostly solutions of saltpetre, common salt, corrosive sublimate, or pyrolig-

neous acid. "I have tried them all," says Dr. Godman, "and know that they are all attended with one very great disadvantage, that of destroying the edges of the knives, and, unfortunately, the sublimate and pyroligneous acid, the two best preservers of flesh, are the speediest destroyers of knives. A better agent than any of the above, and one free from the great inconvenience of injuring the knives, is common whiskey. We fix a pipe, says he, into a large artery, and inject the whiskey until no more can be thrown in. It does not flow out by the bowels or mouth, as the solution of common salt, which may be attributed to the action of the spirit contracting the delicate extremities of the capillary vessels. In this way the whole of the muscular and cellular system is acted on; and if the skin be then sponged with impure pyroligneous acid, the body may be kept for a great length of time, even in warm weather. The flies may be prevented from depositing their ova in the cavities of the nose, mouth, &c. by pouring into these some spirits of turpentine, which will prevent them from coming to life, if they have been already deposited."

"The *impure* pyroligneous acid is the most excellent corrector of the bad smell of dead bodies, by merely sprinkling or sponging with it. The pure acid is little better than common vinegar, when compared with the *impure*."

In one of our early Numbers, we have noticed an instance of a dead body being secured against putrefaction, by a weak solution of camphor in rectified spirit, injected into the veins and arteries, and this composition, chemically speaking, differs only from whiskey, in being much stronger. We suspect that article led Dr. Godwin to give whiskey a trial as a preventive of putrefaction, and that he is also indebted to it for his knowledge of the antisепtic powers of *impure* pyroligneous acid, and the poisonous effects of turpentine on insects.

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### LACERATED WOUNDS.

In a late communication, by Dr. Belcher, an eminent Surgeon of Bandon, on the advantages resulting from the application of a solution of opium to lacerated wounds, especially of tendons, the doctor observes, "I have been induced to make a few observations on the good effects of opium in solution, applied to lacerations of tendinous parts, from having witnessed several cases of those injuries where lock-jaw would probably have taken place, had not a solution of opium been *immediately* applied, and continued until suppuration had commenced. One case, in particular, has lately presented itself to the doctor's observation, which made a considerable impression on his mind, as to the great advantage of this simple treatment in preventing lock-jaw. A healthy robust man, during attending a bolting mill in his neighbourhood, had a great portion of three fingers of his left hand literally ground to pieces, with considerable laceration of the tendons. The doctor immediately amputated the injured parts, and dressed the wounds with dossils of lint dipped in a solution of opium, (four grains of opium dissolved in half an ounce of water) prescribed an anodyne sudorific draught at bedtime, and a saline purge in the

morning. The patient continued during the night free from any symptom of spasm. The opiate dressings were repeated until inflammatory action appeared, when an emollient cataplasm was substituted. The patient remained free from pain and spasmodic startings, so common on such accidents. The anodyne draught was continued every night, the wound suppurated, a portion of tendon, &c. separated without the slightest tendency to spasm.

The doctor notices another case of laceration of the tendons of the legs, and two cases of compound dislocations of the thumb at their metacarpal joints, (an accident which he thinks is frequently followed by lock-jaw) in which a similar treatment succeeded in preventing spasmodic irritation. He also notices a case of the last accident, "where, in consequence of opium not having a fair trial, lock-jaw supervened." The doctor adds, Mr. Todd, an eminent surgeon of Dublin, was in the habit of applying opiate dressings to lacerated wounds, at the Richmond hospital, in that city, with the best effects. In one case, where the thumb, the index finger, and part of the hand were shattered by the bursting of a blunderbuss, amputation was performed shortly after the receipt of the injury at the carpal joints of the metacarpal joints of the thumb and finger. The wound and neighbouring laceration were dressed with lint in a solution of opium. The antimonial anodyne draught at night, and a saline aperient in the morning, were exhibited. This plan was continued, and the patient recovered without a bad symptom, scarcely requiring a poultice. Mr. Todd expressed his conviction to the pupils, that lock-jaw would have probably taken place in this case, had not opium been employed.

The results of the topical application of opium, and when administered internally in combination with antimony, with the occasional use of an aperient medicine, have convinced Dr. Belcher, that lock-jaw may, in general, be prevented by such treatment; and if it had a fair trial, and was more generally adopted by surgeons in those particular injuries, *immediately* after their receipt, cases of lock-jaw, from injuries, would be very rare. He considers this plan of treatment applicable to gun-shot injuries in similar parts, and also in cases of scratches or punctures received during the dissection of dead bodies, particularly the immediate free internal use of opium, so as to keep the body for some days under its influence.

There can be no doubt that opium, applied in the manner recommended by Dr. Belcher, is a powerful preventive of lock-jaw, in cases of local injuries, especially lacerations and compound dislocations. The practice, however, is by no means new, and we believe is very common, in all the hospitals of Europe, not only as a preventive of lock-jaw, but also of sympathetic fever; and, whoever considers the frequency of lock-jaw, from very slight local injuries, will regard no accident where the true skin is lacerated, as too trifling for its adoption.

## PHARMACY.

## MINDERERUS'S SPIRIT, &amp;c.

SIRS.—I perfectly agree with you that nothing has tended more to diminish the confidence of the public in regular medicine, than the opposite opinions which exist among some members of the profession, with regard to the nature and treatment of diseases, and of the effects of remedies. In the actions of no article, as an external application, do physicians and surgeons differ more, than in that of the liquor of acetate of ammonia, commonly called Mindererus's spirit. Mr. Blande terms it a stimulant, and gives a formula with it for *chronic* inflammation of the eyes. The late Mr. Ware termed it an anti-stimulant: and often prescribed it diluted, with rose water in *acute* inflammation of the eyes. Mr. Thomson says it is employed as a lotion to inflamed surfaces, and when largely diluted, as an injection in the commencement of gonorrhœa. Sir Astley Cooper considers it an anti-stimulant or cooling application, and as such it is frequently prescribed by some surgeons of London, more or less diluted, as a lotion for inflammation of the eyes and skin, and for fractures and dislocations. I was not a little amused on hearing a surgeon of St. George's Hospital, with the true professional phiz described by John Bell of Edinburgh, order an *evaporating* lotion of the liquor of acetate of ammonia and water: the evaporation of an article surely must depend on its volatility, and certain it is, that water alone is more readily evaporated than the liquor of acetate of ammonia, which is a solution of the acetate of ammonia in water.—The acetate of ammonia is a neutral salt, and its addition to water cannot render it more volatile than that of Epsom salt, or acetate of potass. The acetate of ammonia in a state of chrystals is nearly as powerful a stimulant as the muriate of ammonia, a solution of which is very frequently prescribed by surgeons as an external stimulus in cases of indolent diseases. In cases of erysipelas, I have known the said *evaporating* lotion of a solution of acetate of ammonia, on the water being nearly evaporated, to excite considerable irritation, and extend the inflammation to the neighbouring parts. As an external application, Mindererus's spirit is therefore not a refrigerant or antistimulant, and certainly no person acquainted with chemistry would term it an *evaporating* lotion, when it is less so than common water, or order it as a cooling application, when it leaves on evaporation a salt which is capable of inflaming even healthy skin.

The Mindererus's spirit being frequently prescribed with the tartarized antimony, it is of great importance that it is neutralized with great nicety; for if the carbonate of ammonia be in excess, which is generally the case, the tartarized antimony will be decomposed and rendered inert. To increase the effects of the tartarized antimony, or to guard against the decomposition of it by predominating carbonate of ammonia in the Mindererus's spirit, I have long been in the habit of prescribing with it a few grains of tartaric acid (from 5 to 8), which I have found to promote its efficacy in cases of inflammatory fever, by acting gently on the bowels.

Another article, which is very rarely kept properly made, is the ointment of the nitrate of quicksilver. In consequence of using a nitric

acid of greater strength than that ordered by the college (which is generally sold by wholesale chemists), the solution of the quicksilver is a super-nitrate, and the ointment in consequence highly stimulating ; and in some erysipelatous inflammation of the eye-lids and other parts, as well as chronic affections of the skin, I have found the ointment thus made, to excite considerable pain and inflammation. To guard against the bad effects of an ointment of nitrate of quicksilver, made with too powerful an acid, I have lately ordered prepared chalk to be mixed with it in the proportion of ten grains to half an ounce, to neutralize the acid which is in excess, and this addition, even when the acid is not in excess, I have found to render it more soothing. Instead of specifying the quantities of the nitric acid and quicksilver in the formula for making this ointment, it would have been more scientific in the college of physicians, to have ordered a certain quantity of a saturated solution of quicksilver, in the nitric acid, to be added to the lard and oil. If this letter should appear in your very useful publication, I shall soon send you another on the opposite opinions given by some physicians, of the effects of nitrate of potass.

I am Sirs,

Your very obedient servant,

T. S. Surgeon.

*York-place, March 20th, 1825.*

*To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.*

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### FOXGLOVE.

In our 103d number we have noticed a few cases of dropsy, in which powdered leaves of the foxglove were administered under the superintendance of Dr. Davy of Fort Pitt, to the extent of 114 grains daily, with complete success. In those cases the article in the dose of 38 grains, three times a day, had no sensible effect on the head, arterial system, stomach, bowels, or kidneys. The same powder Dr. Davy gave in the usual dose of two grains, in a case of pulmonary consumption, in which it produced the common effects of diminishing the action of the heart and arteries, &c. Mr. Brande in his manual of pharmacy has introduced a case of dropsy (chiefly of the legs,) in which the powdered leaves of foxglove in the customary dose of two grains, speedily terminated life. The patient, he says, applied for relief at a dispensary, where he received the medicine in the form of pills, with directions to take one three times a day. On the evening of the third day, he complained of great debility and faintness, and in the course of the night, vomiting and fainting fits frequently came on, and in the morning he died on attempting to get out of bed." An enquiry not having been instituted by the coroner as to the cause of this sudden death, it was not determined whether the disease or the remedy was the cause of it. The result emphatically points out the necessity of a patient being daily visited by a practitioner during the time of taking so powerful a medicine. Mr. Brande also notices a case of a dropsical woman of the age of 65, who suddenly died after vomiting and fainting, which were produced by the usual dose of foxglove. These cases and the effects of small doses of the remedy we have frequently

witneased on dropsical patients, warrant us in entertaining a strong doubt of the article so freely exhibited with impunity by Dr. Davy, being the *digitalis purpurea* of Linnaeus; which is used in medicine under the name of foxglove. If the doctor had given it to the extent he has specified only in one case of dropsy, with such extraordinary success, we should have attributed the absence of its usual effects on the stomach, intestines, &c. to peculiarity of constitution; but as he prescribed it in several cases with the same result, we really cannot suppose the article was the species which is used in medicine. Mr. Brande thinks that there are "*important symptoms*," attendant on the remarkable effect of the foxglove in reducing the arterial action, "which have not been sufficiently dwelt upon by writers in the *materia medica*. Upon any sudden, and often on very trifling exertion," says he, "the pulse immediately quickens, the heart throbs violently, nausea and fainting come on, and persons under the full influence of *digitalis*, have not unfrequently died suddenly under such circumstances." Dr. Baildon found, that when the pulse had been reduced to forty beats in a minute, if he merely assumed the erect posture, it would rise to one hundred; when sitting up in a chair it was seventy-two; the same effect he says was produced on several other persons. A consumptive patient during its use, got up in bed in consequence of being suddenly seized with nausea, and his pulse, which half an hour before was forty-five, became too quick to count. He then fainted, and some ammoniacal stimulant (*sal volatile*) was administered for his recovery, after which scarcely any pulse could be felt; it was alarmingly slow and feeble." These effects shew the necessity of not disturbing or altering the position of a patient. (a common practice) on the arrival of his medical attendant, during the use of foxglove; and of the medical attendant to make enquiry before he examines the pulse, if any alteration has been made in his position since his arrival, to ascertain if the remedy has had its due influence on the arterial system; for if he should suppose from the frequency of pulse, occasioned by change of position, or any exertion, that the remedy had not been given in a sufficient quantity to influence the action of the heart, he will probably prescribe it in a dose that will destroy life. Much credit is certainly due to Mr. Brande for directing the attention of practitioners to the peculiar dormant excitability of the heart, which exists during the time it is under the full influence of the foxglove.

Speaking of the medical properties of foxglove, Mr. Brande states "the powers of this plant, as a *sedative* are *distinct* and *peculiar*: it seems to act more *directly* as such, than any other article of the *materia medica*, for we perceive no previous stimulation, nor those other symptoms produced, which usually attend the operation of a *sedative*." We think there can be no doubt of its direct action in diminishing the power resident in muscular fibres, termed *irritability*, which is independent of nervous influence; and its sedative effects on the nervous system, when they do occur, arise from its diminishing the force of the heart, and of course the velocity of the blood through the system. Increased arterial action will disturb the brain and nervous system; and remedies capable of diminishing the irritability, or muscular power of the heart, will of course, in such cases, indirectly

reduce nervous excitement. The foxglove never succeeds in procuring sleep, except the brain be disturbed by an accelerated circulation, and it never disorders the brain like opium and other sedatives. If it be a *direct* sedative, how are we to account for its increasing the action of the absorbent system and of the kidneys? It clearly diminishes that property peculiar to muscles termed irritability, a power for which we have no name to distinguish it from opiates, sedatives, narcotics, or hypnotics, which act on the nervous system. The direct influence of foxglove is on the muscular system, and we have often observed the nervous system to be in a state of irritation, or morbid excitement, when the muscular system was evidently much under its influence. If foxglove were a direct sedative, it would show such power when applied to an irritative ulcer on the surface of the body; but instead of allaying the irritation, it uniformly increases it, and is even capable of exciting irritation in a languid ulcer. If Mr. Brande will take the trouble to introduce a grain of the powdered fresh leaves, or a few drops of an aqueous infusion of them within his eyelids, so as to act on the tunica conjunctiva, he will find that the plant is a *direct* stimulant, instead of a *direct* sedative. With respect to the propriety of administering foxglove in cases of *active* haemorrhage, as recommended by many eminent practitioners, Mr. Blande observes, the practice is a dangerous one; for if haemorrhage should recur in a patient under the influence of the remedy, death would probably follow. In a case of *passive* haemorrhage, no practitioner of common sense would think of administering foxglove; but in cases of *active* haemorrhage; surely an article capable of diminishing the action of the heart and arteries, must be a most important remedy. It is most absurd to reason on hypothesis. It is only administered in cases of *active* internal haemorrhage; and if it should occur during the use of foxglove, what is the inference?—surely that the sanguiferous system is in a plethoric state, or that a large branch of an artery has given way. If the patient should not recover “under the influence of foxglove,” he certainly would not if it had not been administered. Its exhibition, had in fact, given him a chance of recovery, which no other remedy would. A man of science theorises on facts, and not on suppositions.

Since writing the above observations on foxglove, we have received the following letter on the same subject, from a respectable subscriber:

*Newport, Isle of Wight, June 23, 1825.*

SIRS,

Having perused some of your medical works, which show your ardent desire to promote useful knowledge, I am desirous of submitting to your perusal some facts which may be useful to many of your readers.

The *digitalis purpurea* (foxglove) being a plant to whose medical virtues the lives of our fellow-creatures are frequently and entirely entrusted, at a period when all other hopes have fled; it behoveth us to endeavour, as much as possible, to obtain it in the greatest perfection. The leaves being large, thick, and of a dark green colour, must always be held a criterion of goodness. I have observed that those plants which had their flowering spike cut off soon after its appearance, universally produced unusually fine leaves

of a dark green; the difference was very remarkable when contrasted with the comparatively pale leaves produced by the natural growth of the plant. I therefore conclude, that leaves procured in this way contain (when properly dried) the virtues of the plant in the greatest possible perfection. Plants treated in this way, always produce abundant crops of beautiful leaves, having received the nourishment intended for the flowers.

It is the opinion of some that digitalis is not a direct sedative, but on the contrary, a powerful stimulant. In the following case its sedative effects are very apparent. I was, myself, a short time ago, attacked with a violent headache from vascular excitement. The pulse was full, hard and frequent. I took a draught of Tincture of Foxglove, and

Sweet Spirit of Nitre—of each half a drachm.

In five minutes the pain was considerably relieved; in 10 more the pulse was less frequent and softer, the pain still decreasing, and in 15 more it was small, slow, and soft; the head-ache by this time quite relieved.

The compound pill of calomel (Plummer's Pill) of the last London Pharmacopeia, is an inconvenient form, insomuch as the pills invariably become flattened even by their own weight; the quantity of spirit is too great, but diminishing this would not quite prevent their losing their proper form; it therefore requires something to give it consistency; the following I have found to answer the purpose effectually.

Take of Prepared Calomel,

Precipitated Sulphur of Antimony,  
Castile Soap, of each one drachm,  
Guaiac Gum, two drachms,  
Rectified Spirit, 20 drops.

To be made into a mass, and divided into forty pills.

In this mass five grains contain one of calomel, which is the dose usually prescribed.

The wine of tartarized antimony, I think would keep much better, and prove more efficacious if the ethereal spirit of nitre were substituted for the proof spirit.

The syrups (most of which, in my humble opinion, scarcely deserve notice) would be equally preserved with half the quantity of sugar usually employed, and would contain in a given quantity a greater portion of medical virtue. Would not the following preparation be more certain than the syrup of white poppies, which requires such time in its preparation?

Take of Tincture of Opium, half an ounce,

Simple Syrup, eleven ounces and a half—half an ounce of this Syrup contains about fifteen drops of the Tincture of Opium.

I remain, Sir, your's respectfully,  
MEDICUS.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

We suspect few practitioners will consider the syrup of opium as a proper substitute for the syrup of the English white poppy. The extractive matter of the white poppy of Europe differs from that of Turkey, in being free from narcotin. The best and most expeditious mode of making a syrup of white poppy, is to dissolve the extract in simple syrup. The formulæ for syrups are all contemptible, and they are now very rarely prescribed by medical men of science, who never think of pleasing the palate of their patients, at the expense of the ~~their~~ stomach, with which they generally disagree.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

MR. ABERNETHY, *versus* the PUBLISHERS of the LANCET.

The philosophical, or rather highly talented Mr. Abernethy, has, after much profound reasoning, not legal sophistry, before the Lord High Chancellor, succeeded in obtaining an injunction to suppress the publication of his *original* lectures, after the whole had been published and reprinted in America !! Will this philosophical surgeon, this warm advocate for the promotion of medical science and for the diffusion of medical knowledge among the mass of mankind, prevent the importation of the work from America ? They may be sold in any part of Europe but England ; a country which is considered the most enlightened and independent in the known world, and certainly esteemed by the philosophers of France and Germany for its love of rational liberty, and for the independence of its public journals !!! The Lord Chancellor, with the promptitude he generally displays in his decisions on *political* matters, has decided that a pupil has no right *in justice*, to publish the lectures of his teacher, but he is at liberty to think of them, and to speak of them, and even to deliver them *orally*. He may even deliver them to a congregation, or even to a class of pupils orally ; but if he should publish them in a book so as to be *read* by others, he will act contrary to the *spirit* of the British laws, which of course are founded on *justice*, although we have our courts of justice and courts of law, in which simple clauses of an act of Parliament are differently interpreted !!! On the justice of his lordship's decision according to the *spirit* of the laws of justice of this country, which in some cases even his Lordship sometimes requires thirty years to discover, we shall not question, because we are totally ignorant how far that spirit is influenced by, or dependent on the good of the country. Having heard his Lordship emphatically remark, without any previous *hesitation*, for which his Lordship is justly celebrated, that it is impossible for a judge to give satisfaction to plaintiff and defendant, he will pardon us in proposing an early meeting of independent medical men, in order to make a fund for the purpose of referring his decision to a superior tribunal, if the *spirit* of our laws or any law will allow such appeal,—a most important question, affecting the liberty of the press, and the progress of science being involved in it.

After the repeated declarations we have heard Mr. Abernethy make, of being a friend to the promotion of medical science, and to the diffusion of useful knowledge,—that he should, at any time, be happy to communicate any information his pupils might require from him,—and after publishing a work for popular perusal, we confess we were not a little surprised on finding that he had adopted *legal* measures to suppress the publication of his lectures. Now, the practice of publishing lectures of eminent teachers has existed from time immemorial, and, we believe, has been encouraged by all modern lecturers. It is common for a pupil acquainted with short-hand writing, to take down the lectures of his teacher, and afterwards to make perfect copies of them for sale ; and many a copy of Abernethy's Lectures we have known sold, of which he could not possibly be ignorant. Now, the sale of copies of a

work, we conceive, constitutes publication ; and surely, whether it be in print or manuscript, the act is the same either in *justice* or *law*. With respect to the *originality* of Mr. A.'s Lectures, those published by the editor of the *Lancet* do not differ from those that were sold thirty years since, when we attended the lectures. Indeed, we have not been able to discover any thing in them that is not to be found in the lectures of his master, Mr. Pott, who was as partial to the *blue* pill as Mr. Abernethy in local diseases, particularly habitual ulcers, although Mr. A. states, that he received the hint from a Mr. Doodle, or a Mr. Noodle, a country surgeon. It is well known to all the pupils of Mr. Abernethy, that although he admits that medicine is in its infancy, he treats with apparent contempt all modern discoveries in therapeutics. The practitioner who may notice the medical virtues of new remedies, as iodine, prussic acid, quinine, the diosma crenata, or any other article lately introduced into the practice of medicine, to him, will only be honoured with a significant sneer. It is on account of his contempt of modern remedies that his lectures (published by the editor of the *Lancet*) do not differ from the manuscript copy we have lately seen, which was *sold* in the year 1795. We should have supposed, from the law of copyright, that any person is at liberty to publish a work which had been sold thirty years since. This is a legal question for the *law* of the Court of King's Bench, and not for the *justice* of the Court of Chancery.

We cannot say the same of the late lectures of Sir Astley Cooper as we have said of those of Mr. Abernethy, for Sir Astley has noticed the effects of all the modern medicines, after giving them a trial; and the only objection he made to the publication of his lectures was, "The familiar language of a lecture is not altogether fit for the press." During the life-time of the late Dr. Clarke, a pupil published his lectures on Midwifery, under the title of the "London Practice of Midwifery," and on a copy of the work being presented to him, the only observation he made was, that the anecdotes introduced merely to enliven a lecture and several modes of treatments, the object of which was to amuse the mind of a patient during a tedious labour, or the progress of an incurable malady, were not fit for *public* perusal. When the late Mr. Perry published the lectures of Sir Humphrey Davy in *The Morning Chronicle*, Sir Humphrey, so far from being offended, thanked him for the *honour* he had done him, and, we believe, even then, Sir Humphrey ranked much higher in chemistry than Mr. Abernethy does in surgery.

Professor Cullen encouraged his pupils in taken down his lectures at the time of delivery ; and, during the time he held the appointment of Professor of Physic in the University of Edinburgh, manuscript copies of his lectures were publicly sold by the book-sellers of that city. The professor, finding that they were sold at a dear rate, afterwards published the substance of them, under the title of the "First Lines of Physic," and the professor's lectures exhibit more originality than those of Abernethy. A physician, a staunch or high-bred legitimate of Oxford, about four years since, threatened us with legal proceedings for having published two of his prescriptions in our work. We replied,

that the patient having paid him the full value of them, they were, in our opinion, his property, and, therefore, he had a right to publish them for the *benefit of the public*. The physician was satisfied with this observation, and some months afterward told us, that many invalids afflicted with the disease for which the prescriptions were recommended had consulted him, in consequence of the publicity we had given them. We have noticed these facts merely to prove, that lecturers of as much eminence in their departments of science as Mr. Abernethy is in surgery, have not entertained the mean, sordid idea, that the publication of their lectures would militate against their pecuniary interest, by diminishing their future classes. The wretched combination of "medical talents of London," ycleping themselves "the Society of *Physicians* of the United Kingdom," have taken up the cudgels in favour of the "highly talented" Mr. Abernethy, and even, during the time the subject was *sub judice*, discharged a volley of abuse against the editor of *The Lancet*, and pronounced judgment through the medium of their only organ, *The London Medical Repository*!!! These sticklers for *propriety of conduct*, boldly pronounce the crime of "pirating the lectures of a teacher an act of UNBLUSHING *knavery*"!!! and declare those who take in the work "purchasers and receivers of *stolen goods*"!!! (Bravissimo! most courageous Copland.) The article being an *elegant* specimen of the *vulgar* tongue, we shall do the society the honour to give the most pithy parts in their secretary's own words:—"The *unsophisticated* man," says the writer, "can have *no* difficulty in comprehending, that if a lecturer *gets HIS* living by the delivery of *original* lectures which *his* hearers *PAY* for the privilege of being admitted to hear, the publishing of those lectures *against* the will of the lecturer, and the selling them for *sixpence a piece* (!!!) are acts of *fraud*, neither is there any difficulty in determining, that the person doing *these things* is a *ROGUE*. I make *my* appeal to *all men*," proceeds the writer, "who have not sacrificed *common sense* and *common* feelings of *honesty*, to forms and customs, who do *not* measure *morality* by the *imperfect* provisions of human law, and who can imagine higher degrees of virtue than that which owes its existence to the *salutary* fear of being *hanged* !!!" "The members of the profession," continues this *virtuous GENTLEMAN*, "who purchase *certain* publications, disgrace the profession." The writer then puts the following question to the readers of *The Medical Repository* :—"Are not all those who purchase this property, (the published lectures) *purchasers and receivers of stolen goods*?" A very judicious question indeed to gentlemen, three parts of whom are purchasers, and, of course, receivers of the said *stolen goods*!!! "Who," says the magnanimous and conscientious *gentleman*, "after feeling his inability to give a *plain, honest, SATISFACTORY* answer to this question, continues to take in these *stolen* pages, has made an inroad in the *integrity* of his character, and compromised his *honesty*!!! Will any member of a *liberal* profession say, that an editor of a scientific journal does not do a teacher great honour by deeming his lectures worthy a place in his pages? and will any member of the medical profession say, that the publicity is not more likely to raise his reputation as a teacher than otherwise? In the same work the editor has published the lectures of Dr. Armstrong, and the doctor ~~had not~~ said

complained of it; because he well knows that it will operate considerably to his advantage, both as a lecturer and a practitioner. That Mr. Abernethy can possibly sustain *any* loss by the publication of his lectures is really out of the question. The only question is, will the publication of them be productive of any benefit to the profession in general, or to the public? This question we think every unbiased man of integrity will answer in the affirmative. To young surgeons who have attended the lectures of Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Brookes, Mr. Gouthrie, Mr. Bell, Mr. Mayo, and even of the scientific Mr. Grainger, we have no hesitation in asserting, they afford such information as will correct the dogmas of their teachers, and render them more judicious practitioners; and the publication of the lectures of Sir Astley Cooper, of Grainger, Gouthrie, or Bell, may have the same effect on the pupils of Mr. Abernethy, for every lecturer has his theory and his dogmas. Even to those who, like ourselves, attended the lectures of Mr. Abernethy many years since, the perusal of the work may revive in their memory many of his anecdotes which time had effaced from it. Hence then, the publication of them is useful to surgeons in general, and consequently to those who stand in need of surgical aid. These facts are too obvious for the Society of Physicians, or Fellows Would-be, or their magnanimous generallissimo, Dr. Copland, to deny. But, says this contemptible cat's paw of the Society, "apprentices of medical men in the country will be so satisfied with the *perusal* of the Lectures, that when they come to London to finish their education, they will not attend the Lectures"!!! This is, indeed, very plausible reasoning! Will any surgeon say, that a *perusal* of the Lectures is not likely to increase the ardour of an apprentice to acquire medical information, and his anxiety to attend the teacher in London, and even the vanity to become a pupil of a teacher, whom, from a perusal of his lectures, they will most probably admire with enthusiasm? In fact, can any work be put into the hands of an apprentice to a surgeon or apothecary, more likely to rivet his mind to the study of medicine, to afford him more useful information, or to lessen his mental labours, when he visits a London hospital to complete his education, than the lectures of an eminent teacher? Whoever considers the short time that is devoted to the completion of a medical education at a London hospital (seldom more than six months, to become acquainted with anatomy, physiology, surgery, physic, chemistry, and midwifery!) will agree with us as to the necessity of acquiring a superficial knowledge of the branches of medicine during the period of apprenticeship, in order to facilitate the acquirement of a profound acquaintance with them during their attendance at a London hospital. Instead then of applying the epithet of knave to the Editor of the *Lancet*, for having published the Lectures of Mr. Abernethy and of Sir Astley Cooper, and denominating the purchasers of his work, "rogues, and receivers of stolen goods;" we are satisfied that every person, after an impartial examination of the subject, will agree with us that he is entitled to the thanks of the profession and the public in general, for having manfully resisted the attempts to prevent him from doing it; and instead of terming those who purchase the work "rogues," they are entitled to the highest commendation.

dation, inasmuch as they can have no other object in view, than the acquirement of knowledge of their profession, for the benefit of those patients who place their lives in their hands. If there are any members of the profession who have made an inroad in the integrity of their characters, have weakened their virtue, and impaired their honesty," by encouraging a periodical work, they are those who have continued their subscriptions to the Medical Repository, after such an unjustifiable attack on the integrity of an Editor of a Medical Journal appeared in it, to say nothing of the contemptible attacks on surgeon-apothecaries and practitioners in midwifery, which have lately appeared in the same work from a wretched herd of "real physicians," (as they have had the audacity to style themselves), whose *real* object is to support the *fee-trade*. Had this magnanimous generallissimo made such an attack on the Editor of the Gazette of Health, he would have brought him before the public in his genuine colours, by prosecuting him for an infamous libel. The Editor of the Lancet no doubt considers him to be too contemptible for such notice; being, indeed, that kind of "game chick," which is not worth powder and shot.

With regard to Mr. Abernethy's means of obtaining a livelihood being decreased by the publication of his lectures, an idea which, we are certain, never entered his head, we are persuaded that every *honest* man will agree with us, that no lecturer to a charity has any right to expect to make four or five thousand pounds annually of his appointment. The wealthy subscribe to hospitals *liberally* for two reasons: the first, and no doubt the predominating one, is the relief of their fellow-creatures labouring under the complicated misfortunes of poverty and disease. The other motive, which is no less creditable to the benefactors, is the establishment of a school for the acquirement of a practical knowledge of the different branches of medicine, by which *every class* of society is greatly benefited. Now as the latter is one object of these charitable institutions, is it fair that the medical officers should be at liberty to make whatever charges they think proper for attendance of pupils on their lectures, and on the practice of the hospital? About thirty years since, the pupils paid three guineas for a single course of anatomical lectures, and five guineas for two courses; but as soon as Dr. Marshall (a celebrated lecturer on anatomy) died, the lecturers agreed among themselves, without the consent of the governors or subscribers to the hospitals, to raise the two courses to ten guineas!! so that the lecturer on anatomy who has a class of 250 pupils, which is that of Mr. Abernethy, receives 2,500 guineas annually for delivering a lecture, which occupies one hour daily (Sundays excepted) for half a year! the expense of which to him, for dead bodies, &c., does not exceed thirty pounds. For the dissection room he also receives six guineas for the season from each pupil, about 150, making 900 guineas. He receives five guineas for two courses of surgical lectures, about 150 pupils, making 750 guineas. His share of the receipts from pupils for attendance at the hospital is about 1500 pounds; making in the whole 5650 guineas!!

Now, with such an income, we confidently appeal to any man,

who, as Dr. Copland observes, "has not sacrificed common sense and common feelings of honesty, to forms, and customs," or to any member of the profession unconnected with this contemptible gang of *real* physicians, whether it became Mr. Abernethy to object to the publication of his lectures on the score of "diminishing his means of living." We think, indeed, that Mr. A. should be satisfied with making about six thousand a year of a *Charity*, which was as much established for the cultivation of the science of medicine, and for the acquirement of *practical* knowledge of diseases for the benefit of mankind in general, as for the relief of the indigent afflicted with disease. In Paris, a lecturer considers himself handsomely remunerated by an annual stipend of fifty pounds; but in London, an hospital lecturer calculates on making seven thousand pounds annually, independent of the introduction of the appointment to practice.\* We do hope this exposé will induce the governors of the London hospitals to regulate the charges, not only of the lecturers, but of the surgeons to the hospitals, for the attendance of pupils, and not allow them to throw such serious obstacles in the way of finishing a medical education.

That Mr. Abernethy has a just claim to originality, we think no person who has consulted him, will deny. If any member of the profession, possessing the power of distinguishing oddity from genius, and eccentricity from science, consider him to be as his counsel stated, "a highly talented man;" we shall be obliged to him to point out to us, what discovery he has made in surgery, or in any other branch of medicines, which entitles him to any thing like superior rank in the medical world; for we confess, although we know him well, we are ignorant of any thing which can entitle him to the compliment of being highly talented.

#### THE HAIR.

For strengthening the hair or rendering thin hair thick, the following wash has been found very beneficial.

Take of saturated solution of Muriate of Potas, one ounce;

Rose Water, five ounces;

Spirit of Rosemary, one ounce.—Mix.

The hair, after being brushed dry, may be washed with this lotion every night, and afterwards brushed again till it is nearly dry. The next morning a little of the following mixture may be rubbed over the scalp (at the roots of the hair), and also over the hair, by rubbing it between the hands when besmeared with it.

Take of best Olive Oil;

Spirit of the Disoma Crenata, of each two ounces.—Mix.

This mixture is in high repute at the Cape of Good Hope for promoting the growth of the hair. If the spirit of the diosma crenata, which is kept

\* At the time the governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital were under the necessity of shutting up one wing of the hospital (one-third of it) in consequence of the low state of their finances, the medical officers, viz. the lecturers and surgeons, were dividing among themselves upwards of ten thousand pounds annually, received from pupils; and although some of them had made large fortunes from their appointments, we are not aware of their having given a farthing towards re-opening the shut-up wing.

by very few chemists in this country, cannot be obtained, the following mixture may be employed instead of the preceding one.

Take of best Olive Oil, two ounces;

Oil of Rosemary,

Oil of Lavender, of each half a drachm — Mix.

A solution of bay salt in rose water (three drachms to a pint) is sold for strengthening the hair, or rendering thin hair thick; but the muriate of potass is more efficacious, and, at the same time, less irritating to the scalp. The above compositions may be freely employed, without any risk of doing mischief.

We lately received from a lady of fashion a phial of an article termed "vegetable dye," to analyze, in order we might thereby be enabled to suggest something to counteract the effects it had produced on her hair. She stated, that "from a fine bright auburn, it had changed it to the most frightful sooty or tawney colour, which had so altered her countenance that she should be obliged to avoid company, until the effect was removed." On examining the said "vegetable dye," we found it to be a solution of lunar caustic!!! We recommended the lady to use an alcali lotion, but it had no effect, the hair having been burnt by the caustic solution. She was in consequence obliged to submit to having her head shaved and to wear a wig, till she had another crop.

#### REFRIGERATING MIXTURE.

At this season of the year, the following effectual method of cooling wine, or any other article, may be acceptable to many of our readers, who cannot procure ice.

Take of Common Salt, two pounds;

Common Glauber Salt, bruised, one and a half ditto;

Nitre, in powder, 12 ounces.—Mix.

This quantity (which may be obtained at the shop of any chemist for two shillings) is sufficient to cool eight bottles of wine. It should be used in the following manner. Place the six bottles in a five or six gallon bucket, with a sufficient quantity of water to reach the necks, then sprinkle the composition of salts over the surface of the water, and stir it up between the bottles with a stick for about a minute, after which cover the tops of the bottles, and the whole of the bucket with a wet cloth, and sprinkle over it two or three handfuls of common salt. In the course of two hours, the temperature of the wine will be reduced about twenty degrees, (supposing it to be at fifty,) and at that temperature it will keep many hours, or even days, if the wet cloth be sprinkled with salt once a day. The refrigerating effect of this process on the wine is more *speedy* when the bottles are loosely corked. In this manner, soda water, cream, butter, punch, &c. may be cooled.

#### BRITISH WINES.

The fine flavour of all fruits being nearly destroyed by the process of fermentation, we advise our readers, who wish to preserve the flavour of a fruit in wine, to dissolve the sugar in water, and ferment it ten days in an atmosphere of about the temperature of 60. (The fermentation is more complete in a tub covered over with a blanket than in a cask.) The juice of the fruit, or the bruised fruit, may then be well mixed with it; and after standing one day, the liquor may be strained off into a cask, and a small quantity of brandy added to prevent further fermentation. The wine thus prepared, will not only contain the flavour of the fruit, but will be equal to any foreign wine, in consequence of the sugar being properly decomposed by fermentation. The British wines are very inferior to the foreign wines, and disorder the stomach of those whose digestion is not good, in consequence of containing a considerable quantity of sugar, which in the temperature of the stomach, running rapidly into the acetous fermentation, is the cause of flatulence, heart-burn, and other distressing affections. The wine of sugar should, in fact, be first made by fermenting the solution of it in water for ten days or a fortnight before the fruit is added. The saccharine matter of the fruit of this country being decomposed by fermentation in two or three days, it runs into the acetous fermentation before the process has scarcely commenced in the sugar; the consequence of which is, the flavour of the fruit is destroyed, and the wine is an unwholesome mixture of sugar, wine, and vinegar.

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 116.

To AUGUST 1, 1825.

VOL. X.

## PHYSIC.

### COSTIVENESS.

DURING a short visit to Boulogne since the publication of our last Number, we met with a new work on Popular Medicine by Audin Rouvière, M. D. President of the Board of Health, &c. &c. in which the author professes to give the discoveries of the moderns of all countries, and to detail simple and successful modes of curing the diseases to which human nature is liable, and of preserving health by medicine, diet, &c. &c. It being generally supposed that the French physicians excel those of all other countries, in the management of the bowels, we turned to the articles on constipation and clysters, and finding them to contain some useful information, we employed a few leisure hours in translating them into the English language, for the information, and, we hope, the benefit of our readers whose bowels do not properly perform their functions, or who are subject to retention of feces, or suppression of the fecal secretion of the colon, or sluggishness of the liver. That our readers may fairly compare the opinions of the author with regard to the causes, treatment, &c. of costiveness, with our own, we have endeavoured to give as literal a translation as possible, so as to convey his ideas.

*On Costiveness, by Dr. A. Rouvière.*—“Costiveness consists in the length of time the excrements remain in the large intestines, and especially in the colon and rectum, where they often become considerably hard. When the alvine dejections are too rare and painful, particular accidents may be the result; but with persons of a warm and dry temperament, and who in a natural state have rigid fibres, an almost habitual constipation rarely causes any inconvenience.

“If there exists a complete retention of feces, we must be careful in ascertaining the cause, and in adopting active remedies to remove it. In cases of *obstinate* constipation, we ought to be assured whether it proceeds or not from some *mechanical* obstacle which prevents the descent of the feces, either in the colon, rectum, or in the small intestines. When the constipation is occasioned by too small a quantity of bile, of pancreatic juice, and of the mucous secretion of the internal membranes of the intestines, by the neglect of an habitual stimulant; or if it be stopped by an augmentation of perspiration, by the use of dry and viscous aliments, by too small a quantity of liquids, by the abuse of pungent, irritating, astringent, narcotic, medicaments, by a sedentary life; lastly, when the dejections are stopped by the development of some malady, the treatment must be regulated by those different causes.

“When a person is affected with costiveness who is not accustomed to it, different remedies are applied; if it be *simple*, that is, indepen-

dent of any malady, arising from contraction or rigidity of the intestines, it may be combated by simple means; such as soft, moist food, rye bread, spinage and other vegetables, mucilaginous drinks in a great quantity, exercise, frictions, and emollient fomentations applied to the abdomen, glisters composed of oily and mucilaginous articles, to which may be added thirty of the 'grains of health'\* (in powder) of the celebrated Dr. Franck of Vienna. 'When the bile does not flow, and the stomach with difficulty performs its functions,' says Riotot in his writings, and Professor Pinal in his lectures, 'every thing goes on badly.'

"Individuals subject to constipation, are frequently melancholy, irritable, dissatisfied with others as well as with themselves. Scarron, although very infirm, was gay and facetious. One example selected from many I could cite, will prove sufficient for the intelligent. Why were not the grains of health of the immortal Franck, of Vienna known in the time of Scarron?

"Physicians should endeavour to appreciate the utility of the

\* Having heard several respectable Englishmen residing in Boulogne sur Mer, speak very highly of Dr. Franck's tonic purgative pills, termed the grains of health, on account of each pill weighing a grain; we obtained a box of them for the purpose of subjecting them to chemical examination. We found them to be composed of vegetable productions, as resin, gum, &c. Although chemistry has lately advanced considerably into the vegetable kingdom, the science does not enable us to ascertain from what vegetable or vegetables the articles of which they are composed are products. Indeed in examining many vegetable productions, the senses of taste and smell are the best tests. The result of our examination of the celebrated grains of health of Dr. Franck, satisfied us that they are only socotrine aloes, divided into grain pills. On intimating our conviction to two respectable French apothecaries in Boulogne, they peremptorily denied it, although they confessed they were totally ignorant of the composition. They were convinced that so respectable a physician as Dr. Franck, Physician to the Emperor of Austria, and the leading physician of Europe, would not have introduced the socotrine aloes under such a name. They supposed the remedy to be a composition of the extract of melampodium and socotrine aloes. As such a composition cannot be detected by chemical examination, we resolved to write to our correspondent Dr. Miller of Vienna, to request him to send us a copy of Dr. Franck's receipt for making the pills, which we were informed by a respectable chemist of Boulogne had been lately published in a work entitled "Formulaire Magistral," a copy of which we could not procure in Boulogne. The pills being held in great estimation throughout France, and by several English families in Boulogne, as a purgative of the liver, brain, &c. we obtained a quantity in order that our readers subject to "bilious or nervous affections" of the stomach, head, &c. may have an opportunity of giving them a trial. The dose is from 3 to 6 twice a week. Not being subject to duty, they may be obtained at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly; at the rate of 9d. a dozen. As they certainly contain aloes, we advise our readers who are subject to piles or irritation about the rectum not to take them. We shall be obliged to those invalids who may be induced to give the grains of health a trial, by this short account of them, to favour us with the result, and particularly with the appearance of the fecal discharge they produce.

practice of modern medicine, which presents so many advantages, the use of which can never be dangerous, since it calls to its aid, not only all the sciences which may or can possibly promote its progress, and at this time embraces a portion of all the productions of industry and human imagination, to combat maladies by more numerous and more varied means.

"Constipation has unquestionably more influence over the fate of families, and even of empires, than most people are inclined to imagine. Cromwell, the Protector of the English republic, had from his infancy been subject to it; Cardinal Richelieu, whose bowels were generally confined, notwithstanding the regular use of clysters, was morose and frequently relentless. How many intriguers of the state are there who are not exempt from constipation? How many events have there not been *physiologically* explained in consequence of the suppression of bile to which Napoleon was subject?"

"We will go farther, and fearlessly assert, that frequently the thought of crime originates in some disarrangement of economy; and if some determined villains had felt the soothing effects of an *evacuant*, they would probably have spared their victims. Could these monuments of a ferocious vengeance, this ardent thirst for crime, exist with the equilibrium of the vital powers, or when the whole nervous system is not disturbed by disorder of one or more of the viscera of the belly? Doubtless not; health is one of the principles of wisdom. Unfortunately these two things, health and wisdom, which might with propriety be termed sisters, are not always inseparable; and it frequently happens that health is neglected, which not less in a moral as well as physiological point of view, is a true blessing. If the abdominal viscera, &c. had been in a healthy state, would Ravaillac have assassinated Henry the Fourth? or Damiens attempted the life of Louis the Fifteenth? or Louvel have dared to stab H. R. H. the Duke de Berry? No! I dare not think it, if a visceral purgative (*antibilious*) had operated prior to their murderous acts."

"Madame B. while living at Passey, was for a long time affected with periodical constipation, accompanied with acute pains in the bowels, with a frequent desire to go to stool attended with much

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\* "Experience is entirely in favour of our thoughts. Have not hellebore among the ancients, and strong purges among us, frequently produced a connexion of ideas and clearness of judgment in the brain of maniacs, and those afflicted with melancholy? But what was the cause which impaired their intellects, which engendered in their minds these whimsical ideas, and in their hearts these infernal projects and diabolical thoughts? Lastly, what inspired in them a profound hatred for society, those terrors of death, and those frightful desires of suicide? The cause did not exist in their brain; for after their death there was found no disease in their heads; on the contrary, there was discovered biliary concretions in their gall bladders, callosities, tubercles, and abscesses in their livers and spleens, an accumulation of thick dark blood in the principal veins, &c.—proofs that the cause was in all the organs that might have been relieved by purgation."

—A. Rouvière, M. D.

pain, which however, led to no result. This constipation generally lasted eight days, sometimes ten, when the medicaments prescribed in similar cases failed. The constipation at length became more frequent, and the pain more distressing. It would seem that fate has decreed that such patients should not have recourse to medical advice or assistance, till life is endangered. We were requested to attend this lady at a time when all the physicians of Paris had nearly given her over; we cannot deny the necessity we were under of prescribing for her; her regimen for some time had been only small meals after long intervals. After making use of our plan, the stools were sufficiently abundant, and a substantial regimen terminated by re-establishing Madame B.'s health. The two first doses of Franck's pills of health having produced but very small stools, we judged it expedient to order a third. We shall not cite an infinity of examples of obstinate constipation that the same pills have sufficed to cure. This case alone is a convincing proof of it."

*On Clysters, by Dr. A. Rouvière.*—“The term *clyster* or *lavement* signifies all medicaments introduced in the form of liquids into the large intestine (rectum). It is generally administered in a tepid state. When it is intended to operate immediately on the internal surface of the intestine, so as to allay inflammatory action or irritation, it is given cold.

“In administering a clyster, attention should be paid to the quantity; for if too abundant, by occasioning over-distension of the rectum, it is apt to excite an unnecessary degree of distension, and consequently to produce too much irritation in the internal membrane of the intestine which receives it. In affections where the intestines are in a state of irritation, a stimulating clyster might produce much mischief. It must not be forgotten that a *simple* clyster ought to precede a stimulating one. By such practice the large intestines are disengaged, and room left for the medicaments to operate on the upper portion of the intestinal canal. Clysters act on the interior of the rectum and colon, and their influence is afterwards extended to the small intestines.

“The advantage principally gained by this class of remedies is the evacuation of the fecal matter contained in the large intestines. Simple water is sufficient to produce this effect, and it is generally this liquid which is used when we would only empty the colon and rectum. The object of the medicinal clyster is a subsequent operation which requires great attention. The active principles of the articles which are contained in it, provoke in the animal economy a series of effects from whence are derived all the advantages which are obtained from this clyster.

“It is easy by means of medicinal clysters to provoke in the living system very diversified modifications. They promote the functions of the various organs, fortify the viscera, augment their vigour, and produce in them other beneficial effects, according to the tonic or exciting substances they contain, and according to their emollient or purgative virtue.

“Clysters are, in fact, purgative, emetic, tonic, exciting, diffusible, narcotic, laxative, and emollient. The first act briskly. They

excite the mucous membrane, lining the large intestines. They are particularly favourable to females, who, after having ceased suckling their children, wish to prevent a further secretion of milk. These clysters are sometimes prejudicial when considerable intestinal irritation exists, by occasioning inflammation of the bowels. The effects of the *emetic* clysters bear the greatest analogy to those of the purgative. The *tonic* clysters prepared with the vegetable substances which contain the bitter principles make upon the large intestines a more durable and deep impression than when taken into the stomach, and which propagates over the whole alimentary canal, and seems to strengthen the digestive organs. This action of the medicinal agents is transmitted to the parts situated near the large intestines, and often speedily re-establishes the energy they had lost. The *exciting* clysters (composed of vegetable substances which contain sharp, aromatic, volatile articles, which ought not to be suffered to evaporate) act first upon the internal surface of the large intestines, and by invigorating the nerves of the viscera, they promote their functions. Their action renders them useful in chronic affections attended with general weakness, paleness of the skin, relaxation of the muscular system, in the flatulent cholic dependant on relaxation or debility of the alimentary canal. The *diffusible* clysters, containing wine, spirit, &c. produce at first a kind of excitation in the intestinal canal, the activity of their principles is diffused over the whole living system with an extreme promptitude, and invigorate the brain. But when they are too much charged with these principles, the blood-vessels of the brain become over-distended, and by compressing that important organ, occasion general debility, and produce, in fact, all the symptoms of intoxication. In cholies occasioned by accumulation of gas, a diffusible clyster frequently relieves the patient instantaneously, by giving to the intestinal canal a shock which immediately establishes its peristaltic action. They combat likewise with success the different accidents that chronic affections produce. We have prescribed in analogous cases camphorated clysters which have had a wonderful effect.

“ *Emollient* clysters are composed of gelatinous and oily articles, as the decoction of the roots and leaves of the marshmallow, linseed, barley, starch, calves’ feet and flesh, hartshorn shavings, &c. In the exercise of our daily functions, these clysters do not create sudden changes worth noticing, but they ensure in all the organs a perfect abatement, which tends to lessen their activity, and which, in diseases caused by an excess of vital force, by a too great agitation of the blood, bring on a very remarkable calm. Very useful assistance is to be met with in all chronic affections, in a dry, irritable constitution; they agree with people who are subject to spasmodic affections within the abdomen; it is to them we must have recourse to combat active constipation, that is to say, that which retains an excess of heat or inflammatory excitement in the large intestines.

“ We chiefly adopt the form of clyster termed *emollient*. It is eminently efficacious in promoting the operation of a purgative medicine, to prevent griping pain, and to render irritating matter which remains to be evacuated, inoffensive. Its laxative power

moderates the intensity of diseased secretions, and concurs in leading to a favourable issue; Sydenham and the most eminent practitioners prescribed the use of it in similar circumstances.

"In the case of a continued constipation, it is an error to believe that a clyster produces the desired evacuation; for this remedy not attacking the seat of the malady, becomes useless and even dangerous, if too often renewed: thus it is better to abandon it in this case, and return again to purgation."

"We have very frequently observed clysters according to our prescription, that is to say, a simple decoction of linseed or bran with the addition of 8 or 10 of Dr. Franck's tonic purgative pills dissolved in it, to effect extraordinary cures in an infinity of diseases. This method of using the clyster should be adopted when the tonic purgative pills have not sufficiently evacuated the bowels. If on the contrary the evacuations are abundant, the emollient clyster may be employed with great advantage to dilute acrimonious matters, and protect the internal surface of the intestine from its stimulating action."

Having given in our 34th number (pp. 1057, 1058), receipts for the clysters which are generally employed in this country, viz. the aperient, the anodyne, the astringent, the antispasmodic, and the diuretic, we shall conclude this article on clysters from Dr. A. Rouvière, with copies of receipts for making the clysters which the doctor has noticed, and which we understand are prescribed by the most eminent practitioners of France.

#### *Simple Clyster.*

Take a pint of Cheese-Whey or Butter-Milk; or,

about two tea-spoonsful of Soft Soap, dissolved in a pint of Soft Water.

These are administered lukewarm, to soften and remove hard feces lodged in the rectum or colon.

#### *Laxative Clyster.*

Take of Cheese-Whey, Butter-Milk, or decoction of Marsh-mallow Leaves (fresh) twelve ounces;

Epsom Salt, from six drachms to two ounces; or Castor Oil, one ounce—Mix.

This composition is chiefly employed to obviate costiveness, or to hasten the operation of an opening medicine taken into the stomach.

#### *Purgative Clyster.*

Take of Infusion of Senna, from six to twelve ounces;

Epsom Salt, from six drachms to two ounces—Mix.

or,

Take of Socotrine Aloes in powder, two drachms;

Soft Soap, three drachms.—After mixing them together in a marble mortar, boil them gently in a pint of Water for fifteen minutes, and then add Epsom Salt, from six to twelve drachms.

or,

Castor Oil, two ounces;

Spirit of Turpentine, a tea-spoonful.

These are prescribed in cases of obstinate constipation, when the rectum and colon are free from irritation or inflammatory excitement.

*Emollient Clyster.*

Take of Linseed Tea, from eight to twelve ounces;

Cold drawn Linseed Oil, from two to three ounces;

or,

Take of Decoction of Marshmallow Root, from eight to twelve ounces; Olive Oil or cold drawn Linseed ditto, from two to four ounces;

or,

Take of Gruel or thin Starch, twelve ounces;

Olive Oil or Fresh Butter, from two to three ounces;

or,

Take of Thin Hartshorn Jelly, twelve ounces;

Fresh Butter, one ounce.

These are employed in cases of costiveness attendant on piles, inflammatory action, irritation, ulceration or stricture in the Rectum. The two latter are also exhibited two or three times a day, to nourish the body, when food cannot be introduced into the stomach. The first was a favorite remedy with Mr. Cline in irritative affections of the rectum and kidneys.

*Tonic Clyster.*

Take of Peruvian Bark in fine powder, from 3 to 6 drachms;

Gruel, half a pint;

or,

Take of Decoction of Iceland Moss, from eight to twelve ounces;

Peruvian Bark in Powder, four drachms—Mix;

or,

Take of Decoction of Peruvian Bark, from eight to twelve ounces;

Starch Powder, three drachms—Mix.

or,

Take of Decoction of Bark, from six to eight ounces;

Extract of Bark, three drachms—Mix.

These have been found very beneficial in cases of debility, when the stomach was too irritable to retain a tonic medicine, and when the patient had not the power of swallowing, as in the putrid sore throat. They have also been administered, with success, in cases of intermittent fevers, attended with great debility and irritation of the stomach and bowels. It is worthy of notice, that in cases of intermittents and other diseases, in which the Peruvian bark taken into the stomach excited nausea and purging, the clyster of the decoction of bark with the extract (the last formula), has generally quieted the stomach, and occasioned constipation. The composition of decoction of Iceland moss and Peruvian bark, (the second of the above formula) has been found very beneficial in cases of fluor albus and mucous discharge from the bladder, and in preventing miscarriage in those who are subject to it, between the second and third month of gestation. When the bowels are confined, or when the clyster occasions constipation, a little Epsom salt should be added. A tonic clyster is generally repeated three times a day.

*Emetic Clyster.*

**Take of Oxymel of Squills, one ounce ;**  
**Tartarised Antimony, from four to eight grains ;**  
**Water, half a pint—Mix.**

This composition, when injected at the temperature of one hundred degrees (Farh.) often excites vomiting. It has been found beneficial in cases of hooping cough, and it is said, very seldom fails in terminating a paroxysm of spasmodic asthma. Some French physicians employ a decoction of tobacco, to excite vomiting or nausea ; and others introduce a suppository of tobacco, both of which have produced an alarming degree of debility.

*Exciting or Stimulating Clyster.*

**Take of Infusion of Cloves, from eight to twelve ounces ;**  
**Tincture of Galbanum, four drachms—Mix.**

or,

**Take of Infusion of Horseradish, from eight to twelve ounces ;**  
**Compound Tincture of Benzoin, four drachms ;**  
**Honey, half an ounce.**

Mix the compound tincture with the honey in a mortar, and then add, by degrees, the infusion. To be administered lukewarm.

Some French physicians add the compound spirit of ammonia, and others the sulphuric ether to either of the above formulæ ; but the remedy being administered warm, they generally escape before the liquid is injected, and when particular care is taken to prevent evaporation, they often excite a distressing degree of irritation, often passing up the intestinal canal, so as to escape by the mouth with great rapidity. The exciting or stimulating clyster is employed in cases of debility of the muscles of the rectum and of the sphincter muscle of the bladder ; the former occasioning a lodgment of feces in the rectum, and the latter an involuntary escape of the urine. They are also employed to stimulate the nerves of the pelvis in cases of palsy, either of the bladder, rectum or lower extremities ; and of a species of local debility, very common among French debauchees. which we shall particularly notice in a new edition of our Treatise on the Buchu Leaves, which will be published about the middle of August.

*Diffusible Clyster.*

**Take of Barley Water, from six to eight ounces ;**  
**Brandy, from one to six table-spoonsfuls—Mix.**

or,

**Sherry or Madeira Wine, from six to eight ounces..**

The brandy should not be added to the barley water until the time of administering it, and the wine should be warmed by placing it, secured in a bladder, in warm water, till it is about blood heat.

This lavement is only employed in cases of great prostration of strength, as the last stage of typhus fever and putrid sore throat. In cases of suspended animation, it is an important remedy.

*Narcotic or Anodyne Clyster.*

**Take of Linseed Tea, Gruel or thin Starch, from 6 to 8 ounces ;**  
**Purified Opium, from two to six grains.**

Dissolve the purified Opium in a little warm water, and then add it to the other ingredient.

This composition is employed in cases of irritation of the rectum and colon, of spasms in any part of the intestinal canal and of the uterus, of diarrhoea, dysentery, inflammation or irritation of the kidneys, bladder, and prostate gland, irritative ulceration of the rectum; a calculus lodged in a urethra, retention of urine from spasm or inflammation, &c. It has also been found very beneficial in allaying the nausea attendant on pregnancy. Some practitioners prefer an opiate suppository to this clyster, but in irritative affections of the rectum, or of parts in its neighbourhood, the latter is preferable on account of its also acting as a fomentation.

*Diuretic Clyster.*

Take of Oil of Turpentine from three to six drachms;

Linseed Oil, from two to four ounces;

Decoction of Marshmallow Root, eight ounces—Mix.

This is generally administered twice a day in cases of suppression or paucity of urine.

*Vermifuge Clyster.*

Take of Infusion of Indian pink, six ounces;

Sulphate of Iron, from four to ten grains—Mix.

or,

Take of Peruvian Bark, in fine powder, six drachms;

Alcaline Liquor of Iron, three drachms;

Liquor of Potass, one drachm;

Infusion of Wormwood or Rue, from eight to twelve ounces—Mix.

or,

Take of Infusion of Wormwood or Rue, twelve ounces;

Sulphuret of Potass, twenty grains—Mix.

or,

Take of Olive Oil, eight ounces;

Spirit of Turpentine, one ounce—Mix.

or,

Take of Olive Oil, eight ounces;

Essential Oil of Sanein,

Rue,

Wormwood, of each thirty drops—Mix.

or,

Take of Olive Oil, eight ounces;

Common Oil of Amber, or Oil of Hartshorn, from one to two drachms—Mix.

These lavemens have been highly recommended by several eminent physicians of France as a certain remedy for the species of worms, termed Ascarides, which occupies the lower portion of the intestinal canal. An eminent physician of Italy informs us, that he found olive oil a remedy not only for ascarides (injected into the rectum), but also for every other species of worm that forms in the intestinal canal, when taken to the extent of an ounce. Ascarides, for which the above lavemens are recommended, are so enveloped in

slime, that no oily substance injected into the rectum can come in contact with them. Previously to the use of an oily article, it is therefore good practice to carry off superabundant slime by the use of an active vermifuge purgative, as the basilic powder, or the compound powder of scammony with calomel, of the London Pharmacopœia, or a lavement of sulphuret of potass and infusion of wormwood, the latter of which has been found very beneficial in removing slime from the rectum. This clyster we have lately found very efficacious in a case of St. Vitus's dance, which was evidently occasioned by ascarides in the rectum. In a most distressing case of ascarides, in an elderly gentleman, of long standing, the second prescription (bark powder, infusion of wormwood, and sulphate of iron) so completely succeeded in removing the cause, that after persevering in its use a fortnight, he continued free from the disease.

*Anti-inflammatory Clyster.*

Take of Fresh Rose Water, three ounces ;

Pure Water, four ounces ;

Liquor of Acetate of Lead, thirty-drops—Mix.

or,

Take of Acetate of Zinc, twenty grains ;

Rose Water, three ounces ;

Pure Water, four ounces—Mix.

The above (administered cold) are held in great estimation in cases of inflammatory piles and chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the rectum by several eminent surgeons. When the system is plethoric, abstraction of blood should precede the use of either of them.

*Astringent Clyster.*

Take of Alum, thirty grains ;

Fresh Rose Water, three ounces ;

Pure Water, four ounces—Mix.

or,

Take of Infusion of Logwood, eight ounces ;

Alum, from thirty to sixty grains ;

Tincture of Gum e Kino, three drachms—Mix.

or,

Take of Infusion of Logwood, eight ounces ;

Alum, from half a drachm to a drachm—Mix.

The above are recommended in cases of prolapsus of the anus and uterus, cases of piles from relaxation, passive discharge (excessive) of blood from the rectum or vagina, and also in active cases, after depletion, when the reduced state of the system renders the use of a topical astringent necessary. It is worthy of observation, that in cases of excessive discharge of blood from the uterus, prolapsus of the uterus, and relaxation of the vagina, an astringent lavement has proved more efficacious than an astringent vaginal injection. Some practitioners order the above remedies to be employed in a tepid state, and others in a cold one. When the parts are in a state of inflammatory excitement, they prove more beneficial when administered cold. Remedies of this kind should only be employed in

cases of active discharge of blood, under the direction of an experienced surgeon.

#### *Costiveness of Infants.*

The costiveness of infants, like that of adults, is often hereditary or habitual, but with the former the period which constitutes the complaint is much shorter. The bowels of an infant, not constitutionally costive, may be said to be confined if they are not relieved two or three times a day, and what is considered a regular state in an adult, viz. one fecal evacuation daily, is in an infant a disorder, and very frequently the precursor of some formidable disease, either of the head, chest, or belly. After the age of two or three months, the bowels are in general in an opposite state to that of costiveness, from the prevalence of acidity, in consequence of the stomach being overloaded with food, which rapidly runs into the acetous stage of fermentation. Costiveness is however so common among newly born infants, that it is a practice with accoucheurs to send an aperient mixture for the infant with the medicines for the mother, for the purpose of carrying off the black matter, termed *meconium*, which from its tenacity, is a common cause of obstinate constipation. This substance sometimes adheres with so much pertinacity to the internal surface of the large intestines as to resist the operation of an active purgative. This secretion (of the use or nature of which physiologists of the present day maintain different opinions) being only found in the colon and rectum, is evidently excrementitious, and affords a satisfactory proof of the truth of our assertion, that the principal office of the colon is to separate foul matter from the blood, or in other words to secrete fecal matter. If it were chiefly bile, it would be found in the portion of the intestines through which it must pass to the colon; but so far from this being the case, bile has not been found in the duodenum of a full-grown foetus born dead. It is therefore probable that it is impurities which have been separated from the blood by the internal surface of the colon, during the growth of the foetus, resembling the critical black fecal evacuations of melancholic subjects. Whatever may be its nature or its use in the foetus, experience has proved that if it be not carried off by the first milk of the mother (which is the best medicine), or by an aperient, it will in a few days disorder the intestinal canal, and by disturbing the general health, occasion cutaneous eruption and irritative fever. When the infant is deprived of the first milk, which in consequence of bad nipples frequently happens, or in case the first milk should not succeed in cleansing the bowels, an aperient remedy should be administered. For this purpose it is common to exhibit a few grains of rhubarb powder, or a tea-spoonful of castor oil, or syrup of roses: a great objection to the first article is, its leaving a tendency in the intestinal canal to constipation: to the use of castor oil we object, because it is very apt to nauseate or disorder the stomach, and to produce griping pains: and as to the syrup of roses, it does not act as an aperient unless it becomes sour in the stomach, the common consequence of which is, the bowels are disordered, and continue in a state of irritation for many weeks.

The collection of matter (meconium) being in the colon, an

aperient clyster is more likely to succeed in removing it effectually in a few hours than medicine administered by the mouth, and that too without disordering the stomach or the upper part of the intestinal canal, in which digestion is completed, viz. the duodenum. In general an injection of a quarter of a pint of fresh cheese whey, or butter milk, will fully answer the purpose of emptying the rectum and colon; but as the matter is often very tenacious, it is always right to dissolve in it a tea-spoonful of Epsom salt, or eight grains of aloes, with the view of gently stimulating the internal surface of the large intestines. If neither cheese whey nor butter milk can be obtained, thin gruel, with a little Epsom salt, or aloes in powder, will afford a good substitute. It is a common practice with nurses, in cases of costiveness of infants, to introduce into the rectum a piece of soap or pleyget of lint or fine rag, which, by distending the part, brings the diaphragm and abdominal muscle violently into action, occasioning what is termed straining or bearing down. If there be no feces in the rectum, such efforts will not succeed in producing an evacuation; but if they be kept up by the mechanical action of the remedy, the consequent determination of blood to the head is very likely to disorder the brain, and in infants of peculiar constitution or temperament, has no doubt proved an exciting cause of watery head or convulsions.\*

When costiveness exists after the *meconium* has been completely removed, the best aperient medicine is jalap, on account of its not disordering the stomach or duodenum. It may be given in conjunction with an aromatic and sugar, as the following mixture—

Take of Extract of Jalap, ten grains; or,

Jalap Powder, fifteen grains;

Simple Syrup, one drachm;

Dill-seed Water, seven drachms—Mix.

From two to three tea-spoonsful to be given every three or four hours until it produces the desired effect.

If this composition should not succeed in unloading the bowels, one grain of calomel may be added to the dose. In some obstinate cases of costiveness in infants, Dr. Dunglinson states he has found large doses of aloes in powder to succeed in emptying the intestines, after the usual remedies had been ineffectually employed. The extract of aloes, on account of its stimulating action on the rectum, being very rarely given to infants, Dr. Dunglinson has thought proper to give the following reason for his having prescribed large doses of it in such cases.

“I was first induced to employ this medicine so largely, from the very high eulogiums I had heard pronounced upon it by Dr. Hamilton, the present celebrated Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, to whom the idea of administering it was suggested,

\* About three years since we met with an instance of an infant having been left in a bed three hours with this remedy introduced into the rectum, during the whole of which time it continued straining. The following day inflammation of the brain came on, which terminated in an effusion of serum, termed watery head.

by observing, in a laboratory where he had been placed by his father for the purpose of being instructed in Pharmacy, that the syrup of buckthorn (so called) which they were in the habit of vending to mothers of families to be given to their children, was usually formed extemporaneously of aloes dissolved in treacle; and upon making inquiries of those who had purchased it, he found that no bad effects had resulted from its administration. He consequently formed the determination of trying it in his own practice; when he found it to be not only a successful agent when other means had failed, but also that it was rarely rejected by the stomach, acted mildly, was perfectly safe, and but seldom objected to by young infants. To older children, however, in whom the taste generally becomes exquisitely sensible, the last observation does not generally apply. In all the encomiums passed upon the use of aloes as a purgative, I can cordially concur. In some cases of constipation and in others of diarrhoea, apparently occasioned by the retention of feculent matter in the upper portion of the intestines, I have seen its administration productive of the most happy effects. It has been but rarely objected to by children; and its use has never, to my knowledge, been attended with griping or any other unpleasant symptom."

In one case of obstinate constipation attended with fever, the doctor ordered a drachm of socotrine aloes to be dissolved in an ounce of simple syrup, and a tea-spoonful to be given every two hours, with four grains of scammony and two of jalap, and these remedies were continued till the infant had swallowed three vials of the syrup, containing no less a quantity of aloes than three drachms, when the desired effect was produced.

In the minds of several practitioners, an objection has been raised to the use of all potent purgatives in constipation and other diseases of children; and there can be no question but that they should not be had recourse to until after the failure of the milder means. The objection, however, in many cases, (Dr. D. thinks,) arises more from theoretical deduction than from any bad effects which have been really observed consequent on their use; the unpleasant symptoms being more frequently occasioned by the disease than by the remedy.

On the use of calomel, a very popular remedy in this country for infantile constipation, Dr. Dunglinson makes the following judicious remarks.

"To calomel, also, some individuals strongly object, in the constipation of infants—from salivation having been occasionally induced by it. This is, however, so rare an occurrence, that I have myself never witnessed such an instance under the age of two years; and the late Dr. Clarke, whose experience was most extensive and diversified, has remarked that under various circumstances he had prescribed mercury, in very large quantities, and in a great number of cases; but that he never produced salivation, except in three instances, in any child under three years of age. Where such cases do occur, they ought to be ascribed to some particular idiosyncrasy or susceptibility in the individuals, and only to be esteemed exceptions to a general rule. I have administered calomel freely in in-

fantile diseases, and can safely assert, from the results of such practice, that it is a safe and efficacious purgative, and one of the most valuable which we possess, owing to the smallness of the bulk in which it may be exhibited, and in the absence in it of any disagreeable flavour. After three years of age, its repeated administration cannot be so freely indulged as previously ; but when joined with rhubarb, jalap, or scammony, it forms compounds of considerable energy, on the administration of which, singly or alternately, conjoined, if necessary, with infusion of senna, and cathartic olysters, we generally place our confidence."

With the late Dr. Cam, an eminent physician of Hereford, the basilic powder was a very favourite purgative medicine in cases of constipation of infants. It not only carries off feces, but also slime and worms, and, by removing obstruction in the mesenteric glands and liver, greatly improves the general health.

We lately met with a French physician of some eminence, who assured us that he had found a solution of croton oil in alcohol rubbed over the abdomen to excite *general* purging, viz. purging of the whole alimentary canal, and in some instances even vomiting, after calomel, senna, and other active remedies had failed. Dr. Kennedy, of Glasgow, in a late publication, recommends, in cases of infantile constipation, "a tea-spoonful of powdered jalap or rhubarb spread all over the bowels, and covered with a large hot poultice before being placed to sleep : this," says the learned Doctor, "may be removed for the sake of heat, and a minute addition of mustard will increase its efficacy." The Doctor has, with great propriety, dedicated his work to old mother E. W. A. Hay, "in testimony of his regard and affection." There are no doubt many estimable old women in the university of Glasgow besides some of the venerable teachers, but never having heard of mother Hay, we shall be glad to learn what rank she holds in the university.

Dry friction over the bowels, and along the course of the spine, (with a warm hand) and exercise, are not only powerful auxiliaries to aperient medicine in cases of constipation of infants, but generally prove a preventive. For infants of a florid complexion and full habit, ripe fruit, taken twice or three times a day, generally succeeds in preventing costiveness ; but in pale, languid, or those of a leucophaematic habit, it is apt to disorder the stomach, and to favour the production of worms. The seeds of raisins, currants, gooseberries, and strawberries, being very astringent, often counteract the aperient property of these fruits. Experience has satisfied us that a *vegetable* diet, calculated to obviate costiveness in infants, is as likely to disturb the general health as the malady itself.

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#### ATTEMPT TO DESTROY LIFE BY LAUDANUM.

Drs. Ollivier and Marye, of Angers, have lately published a case of an attempt to poison by laudanum, in which a few facts of some interest are given :—" A man aged twenty-eight, of a plethoric habit, having lost considerable sums of money by gambling, resolved to terminate his material existence, by taking an ounce and a half of

laudanum. In the course of an hour the article produced a considerable lethargic effect. The Doctors, on their arrival (about five hours after he had taken the draught,) found him in such a state of lethargy, that they could scarcely rouse him. His skin was pale, extremities cold, lips livid, and *the pupils of the eyes contracted, but the intellectual faculties were so slightly impaired, that he understood all the questions that were put to him, and answered them distinctly*!!! The pulse was 109, hard and full, breathing slow, with paroxysms of blowing. He was free from pain in the stomach, bowels, vomiting and nausea, convulsions and every appearance indicative of diminution of sensibility, but at times appeared to be affected with slight tremors. The Doctors administered three grains of emetic tartar dissolved in half a wine glass of warm water, to excite vomiting, and a purgative clyster: but whether these remedies operated or not, the learned doctors have not thought it necessary to notice. After some hours, the lethargic effects having increased, they ordered him to be bled to the extent of twelve ounces, and a "considerable quantity of strong coffee to be given;" *the pupils of the eyes continued excessively contracted.* The coffee was repeated, mustard poultices were applied to the feet, and the purgative clyster administered: after the expiration of twelve hours there was no particular change in the symptoms, except in respiration, which was more slow, the pulse less frequent, but *the contraction of the pupils of the eyes had so far increased, that he could not see those around him!* The infusion of coffee was continued, notwithstanding it does not appear that there had been any evacuation either upwards or downwards; a strong draught of ether was now exhibited; in the course of the night he became very delirious and feverish. The following morning (twenty-four hours after he had swallowed the laudanum) they found the lethargic symptoms to be evidently decreasing, the respiration more frequent: the pulse being 116, full and hard, they ordered a further abstraction of blood, and a mixture of vinegar, lemon-juice and water, to be freely administered. The symptoms continued stationary for the course of twelve hours, "*but a small quantity of urine was evacuated.*" The pupils of the eyes continued contracted. In the evening the lethargy had considerably decreased; several purgative clysters were given; the night passed calmly, (the sleep being natural), and the following morning he was perfectly well. The Doctors, who were highly delighted with the favourable termination of this case, attributed much to the abstraction of blood. They seemed to have been totally ignorant of the mode of treatment by "*cold effusion,*" which has been successfully employed in such cases by several practitioners of this country, and also of the mode of emptying or washing out the stomach, by means of the instrument invented by Reid, termed the stomach pump; they, however, fancied that they detected the presence of opium in the blood and urine of the patient!

On the late trial of Dr. Castaign, for poisoning a person with the acetate of morphine, M. Chaussier stated, that in cases of poisoning from laudanum and other narcotic substances, the pupils of the eyes are *dilated*, and M. Orfila gave his opinion that the pupils

might be contracted or dilated, or in their natural state, according to the length of time the patient had been under the influence of the poison, and of course the quantity that had been taken. In the case related by Drs. Ollivier and Marye, if the patient really swallowed an ounce and half of good laudanum, we suspect he had been accustomed to its use, for if he had not, the treatment adopted by the learned doctors would not have prevented the fatal effects of so large a quantity as an ounce and half of good laudanum.

The following case of poisoning by laudanum, in which the same quantity of the article was taken, lately published by Dr. Alison, a scientific physician, of Edinburgh, affords a contrast between English and French practice in a case of urgency, where active means are necessary to save life, not in favour of the "prompt chemical scientific practice of the French physicians, in cases of poisons swallowed," so highly extolled by the editor of a Medical Journal.

"On the 5th of February, 1825, Dr. Alison was called to see a gentleman's servant, a strong man, aged thirty-five, who had swallowed, as he was said to have confessed about twenty minutes before, *one ounce and a half of laudanum* in a fit of despondency succeeding intoxication. He was found speaking incoherently, and as if intoxicated, but without any appearance of stupor; the pulse full, strong and frequent; the skin warm, and the face somewhat flushed.

"During the space of an hour, various attempts were made to empty the stomach by means of mustard, sulphate of zinc, tartar-emetic, &c. but in a great measure ineffectually; for although vomiting did take place several times, yet the quantity of matter evacuated hardly exceeded a mouthful at a time. At length all expedients to excite the action of the stomach ceased to have any effect, and the man fell into a state of profound coma. About an English pint of tepid water was now introduced into the stomach, by means of an instrument recommended by Mr. Bryce; copious vomiting immediately succeeded, and a repetition of the process was followed by the same effect.

"After the evacuation of the stomach, the breathing became more regular and less stertorous, but the livid flushing of the face continued, and the only signs of sensibility manifested, were frequent and feeble efforts to scratch the legs and thighs. The pulse was still full and frequent, and the skin warm on the upper parts of the body. The patient was now stripped naked, and cold water was dashed over his head and shoulders. By this he was powerfully excited; he sprang from his seat, and fell forwards, gasping strongly and repeatedly; when raised, he opened his eyes and looked wildly around; and being rubbed dry, walked with assistance into an adjoining room, where he lay down and had hot bottles applied to his feet which were now very cold.

"For nearly an hour after this he was very restless, tossing about in bed, and scratching himself incessantly, but could hardly be induced to speak. At length he fell into an apparently tranquil sleep; the flushing of the face entirely subsided; the skin became

rather cold ; the pulse smaller, but still firm ; the breathing slow, but regular and easy.

“ In this state he continued for more than an hour, easily roused, and sensible when spoken to. The medical gentlemen therefore thought they might with safety commit him to the care of the attendants, and withdrew. In about four hours after, however, Dr. Alison was recalled, and found him with all the appearance of a dying man : he was quite insensible ; the countenance pale and ghastly ; the lips livid ; the jaws fallen ; the skin generally cold, although warmth had been assiduously applied ; the respirations four or five only in the minute, and the inspirations performed with a convulsive start ; the pulse much smaller than before, but still tolerably firm.”

“ From this state he was gradually roused and restored by dashing cold water on the face, by applying strong hartshorn to his nostrils, by friction with the same on the chest, by the application of hot bottles to the feet and stomach, and by the exhibition of hot coffee, &c. &c. ; so that in about twelve hours from the time the Laudanum had been taken every alarming symptom was at an end.”

— *Edin. Med. Journ. April, 1825.*

Query to Dr. Alison.—Did not the state of the pulse in this latter case indicate the propriety of bleeding ?

### TIC DOULOUREUX.

Dr. Darwall, an eminent physician, of Birmingham, has communicated to Dr. Duncan, jun. of Edinburgh, a case of this disease, in which the carbonate of iron, as directed by Mr. Hutchinson, of Southwall, proved successful. The patient (a female) was about eighteen years of age ; she had for some time regularly experienced a paroxysm twice a day ; her bowels were confined, and her stomach disordered. The Doctor prescribed a purgative medicine and the Peruvian bark, which suspended the disease one week. Finding it to return, he ordered two scruples of the carbonate of iron to be given three times a day, with fifteen grains of the compound gamboge pill every night. After taking these remedies one day, she had no return of the disease, and her general health rapidly improved. The Doctor has not noticed the length of time the patient continued to take the remedy. He concludes his narrative with the following remark : “ Two months have now elapsed without any return.” Dr. Jones has prescribed the tincture of colchicum seeds, in the dose of forty drops three times a day, in two cases of tic doulooureux, with complete success. Both patients were females, about the age of forty ; they were of a plethoric or inflammatory habit of body. The Doctor was induced to give this remedy a trial, in consequence of their fathers having been very gouty. During its use he paid particular attention to the digestive organs, and the state of the intestinal canal, employing occasionally the liquor of potass and an infusion of cascara to correct the former, and an aperient to quiet the latter, when the tincture operated too frequently as an aperient. He states, that he is much disposed to consider tic doulooureux if not of the nature of gout, to be very nearly allied to it, having found it to prevail in gouty subjects, and their offspring.

## VOMITING DURING PREGNANCY.

Doctor Dewees, an American lecturer on midwifery, observes, in a late publication entitled "A compendious System of Midwifery," that he rarely perseveres in prescribing the carbonate or subcarbonate of potass or of soda, (commonly prescribed by practitioners of this country in cases of nausea, vomiting and indigestion attendant on pregnancy) when he finds considerable doses do not produce a temporary good effect. He has then recourse to an opposite class of remedies, viz. acids, as the dilute sulphuric acid, elixir of vitriol, lemon-juice, &c. He states, that he has frequently found the rectified spirit of turpentine exhibited, in the dose of twenty drops three times a day, to succeed after the alkaline and acid remedies had failed.

## OXALIC ACID.

Dr. Duncan, jun. has published an interesting "Case of Poisoning by Oxalic Acid," which lately occurred in the practice of Dr. David Scott, a respectable physician of Cupar Fife. The patient was a woman, about twenty years of age. She had swallowed, by mistake, a wine-glassful of a solution of the oxalic acid, containing about a quarter of an ounce of the salt. On discovering a label on the bottle, "poison," she alarmed the house. A messenger was immediately despatched for medical assistance, and a pint of milk and some warm water administered. Dr. Scott being in the neighbourhood, soon arrived. He immediately ordered an emetic mixture of one drachm of ipecacuan powder, an ounce of ipecacuan wine, four grains of emetic tartar, and three ounces of water, with directions for one-fourth to be administered at intervals of *two minutes*. After taking the whole of the mixture, she felt no inclination to vomit. The doctor now prescribed a strong solution of white vitriol (sulphate of zinc). Before it was obtained, the pain in the stomach and bowels was so severe as to alarm the patient and her attendants. The doctor seeing the necessity of adopting active treatment to save her life, opened her mouth, and passed the end of a finger into the top of the gullet, which immediately brought on violent vomiting. She now drank freely of warm water, till the contents of the stomach appeared to be completely evacuated, by the water returning nearly in the same state in which it was swallowed, when she observed she was nearly free from pain. The doctor now administered finely powdered chalk mixed with water, which tranquillized the stomach. In the course of a day or two she was entirely free from any disorder of the stomach or bowels. Dr. Scott thinks the milk, which was administered previously to his arrival, was of considerable service, by combining with the acid, and producing coagulation: if so, says he, "it is fitting that a knowledge of it should be widely diffused, as milk is one of the things that can be most readily obtained in the country, and although it might be unsafe to trust to it entirely, yet it would be useful in giving time for more efficient remedies." We are inclined to attribute more to the irritation excited by the end of the finger, and the free exhibition of water, than to the milk, and we are dis-

posed to think that had the strong solution of white vitriol been exhibited, the result would not have been so creditable to the doctor. But why not, most learned doctor, have administered an alcali (as lime, potass, or soda), with the ipecacuan powder and wine, to neutralize the acid? By some late experiments, it appears that the acid, by being neutralized, is rendered inert; the oxalites of lime, of potass, and soda, producing no more effect on the stomach, &c. than the same quantity of the Epsom salt.

### DR. UWINS'S COMPENDIUM OF MEDICINE.

So many respectable medical and non-medical subscribers have expressed their astonishment that we should devote so many of our pages to Dr. Uwins's Compendium of Medicine, we have thought proper to go through all the pages, in order to collect the new matter, that is likely to prove useful or interesting to any of our readers. Our labour, and a most fatiguing mental labour it was, has been in vain. Not one original remark or suggestion have we been able to discover, and there is so much of the simple routine practice, termed, in America, "old woman," and in the East Indies, "sheep's head," that any further analysis of it would only injure the medical profession in general, by diminishing the confidence of the public in the healing art, in consequence of the *learned* author having styled himself a teacher of medicine!

### SURGERY.

#### IRRITATIVE AFFECTIONS OF THE BLADDER, URETHRA, &c.

The last volume of the Dublin Medical Transactions contains a communication from Dr. M'Dowall, an eminent physician of Dublin, on the beneficial effects of the buchu leaves in cases of irritative affections and chronic inflammation of the bladder, urethra, &c. The Doctor observes, that the *chronic* form of inflammation very frequently affects the mucous membrane of the bladder (noticed in our Treatise on the Buchu Leaves) and when neglected, extends up the ureters to the kidneys, producing a degree of local irritation sufficient to disturb the general health. These complaints may in general be traced to mismanaged gonorrhœa, retention of urine, disease of the prostate gland, stricture of the urethra, the action of calculi, and the rude use of the bougie. The doctor observes,

" The morbid alterations of the mucous surface of the bladder, produced by this disease, are different degrees of vascularity, from merely a few patches of a dark or a bright red colour, to an entire vascularity, in some cases so marked, as to appear as if the bladder had been daubed over with blood; the veins in general are turgid; the membrane becomes much thickened; frequently numerous ulcers form, covered with a tenacious brownish-coloured lymph; sometimes these are very numerous and deep, so as to give a honey-comb appearance

to the membrane. The inflammation may run so high as to end in complete sphacelus of the interior of the bladder—I saw this in two instances. The mucous membrane generally forms numerous rugæ, which may be matted together by coagulable lymph.

“The discharges coming from a membrane so altered by disease, are blood, (in general venous,) and often in very large quantity; a slimy, tenacious mucus; a powdery, white sediment; or a fetid sainous matter.

“The cellular substance under the mucous membrane becomes filled with lymph, and in consequence is liable to be much increased in depth. The muscular fibres are usually much thicker and stronger, and the intervals between them may be filled with lymph: occasionally small abscesses form in the muscular parietes. In one instance I saw an abscess formed between the muscular layer and peritoneal coat, which attained considerable size, and apparently was caused by irritation from a long continued disease of the mucous membrane.

“The constitutional symptoms attendant on the disease are, great derangement of the digestive organs, as indicated by loss of appetite; thirst, often very urgent; tongue white, or loaded with a yellowish brown mucus; nausea, sometimes vomiting; a costive state of the bowels; faeces usually dark-coloured; a harsh dry skin, and emaciation.

“The cases detailed are only three in number.

“Case 1. Was hopeless apparently. A gentleman had been six years ill—emaciated—debilitated—paralytic of the lower extremities. He passed his urine with great difficulty, being loaded with much tenacious stringy mucus. His appetite was totally gone. After trying several remedies recommended in irritable bladder, he exhibited the infusion of buchu leaves, with tincture of the same and tincture of cubeb thrice a day. In six days the patient's appetite was improved, his strength increased—the mucus in his urine diminished—the ability to retain his water augmented. He continued to improve for a considerable time; but it appears that he relapsed—ostensibly because he could not procure buchu leaves.

“Case 2. Philip Dwyer, aged 67 years, sallow complexion, emaciated, ill for three years. Complains of severe pain in the pubic region, particularly before he passes water. Great irritability of bladder, passing water in small quantities every quarter or half hour during the night: during the day can occasionally retain it for two hours. Less irritability when using much walking exercise; when sitting is affected with a stinging or scalding sensation in the prostatic region. Urine generally white or muddy. Frequently passes a large quantity of a slimy, pale, yellow-coloured mucus, voided with great difficulty, and soon putrefying: is much relieved by its expulsion from the bladder. Is greatly debilitated, and has lost much weight. Tongue loaded with yellowish mucus. Thirst. No appetite. Bowels generally constipated, stools black. No enlargement of the prostate could be felt.

“The disease had commenced three years previously. The following mixture was ordered.”

Take of Infusion of Buchu Leaves, seven ounces;  
Tincture of ditto,  
Tincture of Cubeb, of each one ounce.

**Mix.**—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

This mixture was continued from the 20th of May till the 4th of August, when he reported himself as able to follow his daily avocations of a labourer.

Since we brought the buchu leaves into notice as a remedy for irritative affections and chronic inflammation of the bladder, urethra, vagina, rectum, &c., a very considerable quantity has been imported from the Cape of Good Hope by people who are unacquainted with the different species. We have lately met with some species which scarcely bear any resemblance, with respect to their chemical products, to the proper species, viz. the *diosma crenata*, which alone has proved beneficial in the complaints of the bladder, &c. We therefore advise our readers, who may be disposed to give the leaves a trial, to procure them from the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly. They are not only the most efficacious remedy for the distressing irritative affections of the bladder, rectum, colon, urethra, kidneys, and vagina, and certain local debilities, (noticed in the addition to our appendix), that has been discovered, but are also a very valuable stomachic medicine for nervous and gouty subjects.

### ITCHING.

Few complaints occur in this country more harassing, and often more difficult to cure, or even to alleviate, than itching of the delicate membranes of certain parts of the body, especially when it extends up the vagina or the rectum, or surrounds the anus. Dr. Dewees, an eminent accoucheur, has lately discovered that this complaint is dependant on an exudation of lymph, similar to the affection of the mouth to which children are liable, termed the thrush. The Doctor accordingly prescribed the remedy which has been found most beneficial in thrush, viz. borax; and in every instance, he says, it has succeeded in removing the cause of the itching, when of course the effect ceased. The form he prefers is a solution in water, in the proportion of a drachm of borax to half a pint. He recommends the parts affected to be washed, four or five times a day, with this lotion, and a little to be injected into the vagina or rectum, when it extends internally. When the case is obstinate, he recommends the blood vessels of the part to be unloaded by leeches, and the system to be well purged. This complaint we are satisfied is dependant on a morbid or unhealthy condition of constitution, and if it be not corrected by an alterative, as the blue pill and the precipitated sulphuret of antimony, with a decoction of the marshmallow root, a local application will not succeed in effecting a cure. The following topical remedy, applied three or four times a day, we have found very beneficial.

Take of Calomel, one drachm;  
Liquor of Superacetate of Lead, thirty drops;  
Ointment of Belladonna,  
— of Spermaceti, of each four drachms.—**Mix.**

The balsam of copaiba, in the dose of forty drops to a tea-spoonful twice a day, with a small tumbler of the decoction of marshmallow root, has lately been prescribed by a lecturer on midwifery in London, with great success in this peculiar itching (*pruritus pudendi*), and also in the affections of the rectum, termed internal piles.

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### SMALL POX AND COW POX.

We continue to receive communications from Scotland, Ireland, and several counties of England, the particulars of cases which occurred after vaccination. In some patients the disease was so mild as to have the appearance of chicken pox, and on all the corrective effects of cow pox was evident. In one case (the son of a noble lord), twenty years had elapsed since he had been vaccinated. Before the eruption appeared, the brain was so much disturbed, and the general febrile symptoms run so high, that the medical attendants pronounced the disease "inflammation of the brain." He had been copiously bled, blistered, and purged, before there was any appearance of an eruption. The crop was extensive, but very few of the eruptions advanced to suppuration. In France, we find cow-pox maintains its character as a preventive of small pox, and the faces of the ladies of this country, in the prime of life, as well as the bills of mortality, exhibit indisputable evidence of its antivariolous power.

To Dr. Ferguson either the public, or the book trade, is indebted for a pamphlet, under the title of "A Letter to Sir Henry Halford, Bart. proposing a method of inoculating the small pox, which deprives it of *all its* dangers, but preserves all its power of preventing a second attack." The title-page, like those of nearly all our modern medical works, is at any rate pithy. The cases of small pox which have followed cow pox having been generally very mild, the Doctor has taken it into his head that by mixing, as it were, both diseases in the constitution, that of small-pox will be rendered less virulent, and of course its effects on the human constitution less violent. Now, most learned and observant Doctor, this idea is nearly as old as a knowledge of the effect of cow pox in modifying small pox in certain constitutions, and in preventing it in others.

Dr. Woodville, in 1799, vaccinated 510 patients in the *small-pox hospital*, but to his astonishment, he found that in the greater number of these, a general eruption of "variolous-like pustules" broke out, instead of the vaccine pustule. Dr. Jenner being acquainted with this event, gave it as his opinion that the vaccine matter must have been *variolated* by the atmosphere of the hospital. In fact, there can be little doubt that this eruptive disease was no other than the modified small pox. Dr. Woodville mixed the variolous and vaccine matter, and inserted it into the arms of twenty-eight persons. In one half of these the small pox, and in the other half the vaccine was produced—"but in none were there many pustules, or much indisposition." It also appears, says Dr. Woodville, "that if the cow-pox matter and the small-pox matter be both inserted in the arm of a patient, even within an inch of each other,

so that at the 9th day the same efflorescence becomes common to both the local affections, nevertheless inoculating from the cow-pox tumour, the genuine vaccine disease will be produced." There are, therefore, four modes of producing the varioloid disease. 1st. By inoculating with both poisons, but in separate places. 2nd. By exposure to a variolous atmosphere and then vaccinating. 3d. By propagating the varioloid pustule. 4th. By mixing the two poisons together and inserting the compound. The first mode, Dr. Ferguson considers as the best. The second is not to be recommended. The third is dangerous. The fourth is very uncertain: The following are Dr. Willan's conclusions on the combined inoculation of the variolous and vaccine fluids.

" 1. That when a person was inoculated with vaccine and variolous matter, about the same time, both inoculations proved effective; for the vaccine vesicle proceeded to its acme in its usual number of days, and the maturation of the variolous pustule was attended by a variolous eruption on the skin.

" 2. That these effects took place without much variation, in all cases where the interval between the two inoculations *did not exceed a week*: but,

" 3. That when variolous matter was inserted on the ninth day after the vaccine inoculation, its action seemed to be wholly precluded.—Willan on Vaccine Inoculation, p. 1." 18.

From Dr. Woodville's experiments, it appears that the modified small pox alluded to, is as perfect a security from future attacks of small pox, as the natural or inoculated small pox itself.—And Dr. Willan concludes "that variolous and vaccine virus inoculated at the same time (not mixed) restrain the operation of each other on the body, and somewhat alter the form of the pustules and vesicles, without effecting any change in the qualities of the fluid they contain." And farther on he observes, that persons affected with eruptions on this plan, "are as safe as the inoculated small pox can render them."

Dr. Ferguson anticipates some objections that may be made to his proposal. "It may be asked," says he "if small pox after vaccination be so mild a disease, why not let the patient have the full benefit of vaccination, and give him the chance of escaping the varioloid disease altogether? For if he should take the small pox, you allow it will be mild."

" In answer to this I say, that though it is generally mild, it may be severe. If not severe enough to kill, yet sufficiently so to disfigure. It may be not at all modified, if the vaccine matter has ceased to influence the constitution: *a case of pure small pox, therefore, caught naturally!* Now the advantages of inoculating so as to produce this disease will readily appear if it be considered—

" That it is an acknowledged fact, that inoculation renders the small pox mild. That it is also an acknowledged fact, that the cow-pox renders the small pox mild.

" If, then, I produce a mild form of small pox, by inoculation, and mitigate that mild form, by subsequent vaccination, I ensure a disease which is as secure as the small pox, and as mild as the chicken pox."

The Doctor's letter certainly does not contain anything like a novel idea. If it had, we should have expressed our surprise at his mode of communicating his discovery, for in such case, the proper medium would have been the periodical press. Young physicians require publicity, and the advertisements in the daily papers of "a Letter to Sir Henry Halford, Bart. Physician to the King, President of the College of Physicians, &c. &c. developing a new method of rendering small pox mild," cannot fail to bring the Doctor very favourably before the public. We lately saw an account of the expense of advertising a Treatise on Indigestion, which, for the last three editions, exceeded the produce of the sale nearly four hundred pounds!! Although the learned and benevolent author has lost nearly a hundred pounds by every edition, he continues to reprint the work and advertise it. The advertisement of the book is in fact an indirect advertisement for fees, and by each advertisement, which costs about seven shillings, he calculates on entrapping as many dupes as the late eminent Dr. Solomon, of Liverpool, did by one, when he advertised his "celebrated Balm of Gilead." This learned Doctor considered himself unfortunate when one hundred pounds expended in advertisements did not sell his Balm of Gilead to the amount of two thousand pounds, independent of fees. When, therefore, a physician of any class, regular or irregular, industriously advertises a Treatise on Indigestion, our advice to the purchaser is, beware "of its consequences."

Dr. Shearman, (whose sublime philosophical reveries on the vital powers we have noticed in our last volume,) having fancied that the failures of cow pox are gradually increasing, has made an attempt to account *philosophically* for them. His extensive practice, in Diot Street, Bloomsbury Square, has enabled him to ascertain, "that it is of importance that the *virus* is not spurious," !!! and that the pustule produced by inoculation be *carefully* watched, in order that the patient may be assured of being *secured* against small pox infection."!! Now, most learned logician, if the matter be not conveyed to the mass of blood from the said pustule, can the system possibly be "secured" against the action of small pox infection? The *philosophical* Doctor expresses surprise at the late increase of failures, merely because a few years after its introduction they were very rare, and for this fact his knowledge of the *philosophy* of the living body has not enabled him to account in a manner satisfactory to himself. Now we should conceive that the number of persons vaccinated is even greater than the proportion of failures at the time when they were rare, and the failures which have occurred within the last three years; and if it be a fact, as stated by some respectable practitioners, and which in some constitutions is plainly the case, that the effect of vaccination on the system gradually wears out in the course of eight or ten years, it certainly cannot appear very surprising, to people of common understanding, that the failures should considerably increase thirty years after its introduction.

The philosophical Doctor has lately met with two cases of decided failures, which have brought his philosophical mind into action on the subject; "the son of HIS medical friend at Westminster School was

seized with a *smart fever*!! The Doctor, like a true *medical philosopher*, hastened to combat the enemy which had presumed to seize his friend's son. After the "*smart fever*" had continued a few days, an eruption appeared, which, on philosophical inspection, (the learned Doctor, looking as knowing as a magpie peeping into a marrow bone) he gravely pronounced small pox. "Small pox!" exclaimed the nurse, "surely, most learned Doctor, that cannot be the case, because he has had the cow pox"—"Pshaw," observed the Doctor, "don't I tell you it is small pox?" The insolent nurse was silenced by the *profound looks* of the philosopher. The Doctor's opinion being decisive, the patient must of course be removed, and the philanthropic Doctor conveyed him to his own house. The eruption did not advance to suppuration, but after six or seven days dried and became *horny*!! The boy recovered, but, alas, the Doctor's daughter, who had been vaccinated twenty years, *caught* the infection, and on her it run a similar course; but his other daughter, who had been vaccinated fourteen years, escaped it. To us this said eruption, which became *horny* after cow pox, appears of a very doubtful character, and we are inclined to agree with the observant nurse, that it might have been chicken pox. Notwithstanding these two unfortunate cases of supposed failure of cow pox, the Doctor still considers the "*introduction of cow pox fortunate for mankind in general*," it being in his opinion (high authority in the Bolt Court Society of Medical Philosophers) a singular modifier of small pox; and he ventures on an hypothesis, founded on his philosophy of animal life, that if small pox were communicated by *inoculation* after vaccination, it would be very trifling indeed. Vaccination, if not a *certain* preventive of small pox, may at least, says he, "*be advantageously made use of as a preparation for inoculation*!! So after all that has been said by the advocates for cow pox, and by this doughty scribbler in its favour, when he edited the *New Medical and Physical Journal*, it is of no higher value than a dose of calomel as a *preparer of the system for small pox infection*!! This is indeed medical economy; but if cow pox is to be supported by the profession, to prepare the system for small pox inoculation, at what period is the latter to be performed?

We have on several subjects repeated the experiment every year for eight years, and in no instance did the local inflammation excited by the small-pox virus advance to suppuration, or affect the constitution. The doctor, with the aid of the liberal society of empirical physicians, may discover some means of rendering the system susceptible of small-pox, in a certain period after vaccination, so as to "*divest the operation of the small degree of hazard which at present attends small-pox by inoculation*"!!

Dr. Shearman is convinced, from his knowledge of the laws of the animal economy, that "*the infection of casual small-pox remains in the system twelve or fourteen days, and that introduced by inoculation only seven days before the eruption takes place; and if therefore a person be inoculated with small-pox three days after he has received the infection of casual small-pox, the latter will produce a mild kind, and prevent the other taking place*!!" Hence, says this profound logician, an important practical benefit arises from the knowledge of the fact of the

infection of the one being more slow in its progress than the other!! Although the infection of casual small-pox is received into the system, it does not act in concert with that introduced by inoculation, but each proceeds separately, and an eruption of the latter taking place first, completely destroys the other!!! This is indeed medical logic, highly creditable to a member of the society of physicians of the united kingdom. Now every surgeon or apothecary, who has inoculated fifty persons with small-pox matter, must know that the degree of fever and extent of the eruptions depend entirely on the constitution of the patients, and on the state of the atmosphere.

### GANGLION.

A ganglion, in surgery, is a name given to a small hard ~~tumour~~, apparently produced by an effusion in the sheaths or coats of tendons, particularly those of the extremities. They most frequently occur on the back of the wrist, and on the upper part of the feet. They are very rarely attended with pain, and on pressure appear to possess a degree of elasticity. Small as these tumours are, they often resist no active treatment, and when opened, in consequence of their connexion with a tendon, are sometimes productive of very serious mischief. A common popular mode of treating these tumours, is to beat them, so violently as to rupture the cyst which contains the deposited fluid; but it is often so thick as to render this effect by such means impracticable. Reflecting on the unfavourable results of the different modes of treating this disease suggested by different writers and surgeons of great eminence, it occurred to Dr. Cumin, an eminent physician and surgeon of Glasgow, that by introducing a cataract needle obliquely through the skin, freely dividing the sac, and then pressing the contents into the surrounding cellular substance, he should succeed more effectually, and with little pain, in curing this disease, and without any risk of producing inflammation of the cyst. The tumour being rarely removed by absorption, the doctor thinks the sac is very sparingly supplied with absorbents, but this we presume is the case in all encysted tumours; for assuredly the cyst or sac in those morbid productions are not at any rate in a natural or healthy state, and in many cases of encysted tumours are morbid productions. The contents of such tumours, being tough and viscid, are very unfavourable for absorption, but they are sometimes gradually dispersed by a properly regulated pressure, and it is not uncommon for them to gradually decrease till they disappear, after inflammatory action. In the month of last November, Dr. Cumin, having an opportunity of approving the efficacy of his new mode of treating this tumour, determined to give it a trial. We shall give the case in his own words.

"Christian Liddel, admitted November 15th, 1824. November 22d.—The skin over the ganglion was to-day drawn firmly to one side, and a couching needle introduced into the tumour; the sac was freely divided, and the contents pressed into the surrounding cellular tissue. A small portion escaped through the external puncture, and presented exactly the appearance of the white of an egg. Compress and bandage. Solution of acetate of lead. December 2d.—Fluid is again collecting

in the ganglion. December 20th.—The ganglion, which was much smaller than on the former occasion, was to-day emptied as before, by means of the couching needle. After this the fluid was daily pressed out of the sac into the surrounding cellular tissue, until the 24th, when only a very small quantity was found in it; and on that day she was dismissed cured, with directions to repeat the pressure daily for some time. I had an opportunity of seeing this patient at the hospital on the 21st February, 1825, and I could then detect no trace of the ganglion, excepting a slight thickening in the situation which it had occupied."

The doctor adds, "I have since had several other cases which have served to confirm me in the favourable opinion which I had formed of this mode of operating for ganglion. It is of consequence, after the operation, to apply a compress and bandage, and every morning to empty the tumour completely by pressure, and then reapply the bandage, until at length all remains of the disease have been removed. It does not seem probable that the cure in such cases is accomplished by the obliteration of the sac, or the cessation of its power of secreting fluid; but by its gradual contraction, and the permanence of the opening in its side, through which any newly secreted fluid finds its way into the cellular tissue, and is there speedily absorbed.

" But this simple operation," observes the doctor, " is not equally well suited to every form of ganglion, indeed there are some in which it ought not to be performed. The favourable cases are those in which the tumour is tense and translucent, and rolls freely under the skin, showing that the cellular tissue is loose and healthy. But should the prominence of the tumour be inconsiderable, and the skin covering it thickened or inflamed, the operation ought to be deferred until the parts are in a more favourable condition; for, under the circumstances now mentioned, the sac cannot be freely divided, the cellular tissue will not readily receive the glairy contents, and the efforts used to force them out will, in all probability, cause inflammation and suppuration of the sac. None of the patients on whom I have operated ever complained of pain from the introduction and movements of the needle; one gentleman indeed even spoke of the latter as causing rather a pleasing sensation."

It has since occurred to the doctor that a similar mode of operating might be applied to hydrocele, and that a cure of that disease might be accomplished by opening a communication, by means of the cataract needle, between the cavity of the tunica vaginalis and the cellular tissue of the scrotum. No suitable opportunity has presented itself to the doctor of putting this idea to the test of experiment; but the trial, he thinks, is one which, in the hands of a *cautious* surgeon, would in all probability effect at least a *temporary* cure, and which could not be productive of any injurious or unpleasant consequences.

We do not agree with the doctor in the idea that in hydrocele the operation could not be productive of any serious mischief or inconvenience. The fluid of hydrocele forced into the cellular membrane within the scrotum is very likely to excite considerable inflammation, and confined indeed must the practice of that surgeon be who is ignorant of the general terminations, mortification and sloughing, of

inflamed cellular substance with the cells distended by serum. The results of experience have satisfied us that if a very small portion of the cyst of an encysted tumour be removed after the evacuation of its contents, or of the tunica vaginalis after the evacuation of the serum in cases of hydrocele, an adhesive inflammation will take place, and in a short time destroy the cavity.

### BLINDNESS.

Dr. Duncan, jun. of Edinburgh, has communicated to the medical profession the following case of a species of blindness, from palsy of the optic nerve (*gutta serena*), a disease very common in this country which was transmitted to him by Mr. Wishart, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and Surgeon in ordinary to the King in Scotland.

“ W. S., a boy about nine years of age, was brought to me, the 21st April, from the country, on account of an affection of his left eye. He had completely lost the sight of it, and was not even aware of any difference in a bright sunshine. On examination, no difference could be discovered between it and the right eye, the vision of which was perfectly unimpaired. The pupil was of its natural size, and dilated and contracted readily. He had occasional headache over the left eye ; looks rather pale and languid ; tongue slightly loaded ; his stomach is stated for some years to have been very easily disordered by any trifling irregularity of diet ; is frequently affected with coldness of the extremities, and the fingers of the left hand are often spasmodically drawn into the palm of the hand, requiring some degree of force to turn them out ; the left foot is also similarly affected, the toes being turned in under the sole of the foot.

“ The loss of sight is stated to be of about four months' duration, and is said to have come on suddenly, on being told incautiously of the death of his grandmother. The delicacy of his stomach is ascribed to the misconduct of his nursery-maid, who very early got into the habit of giving him whisky at night to keep him quiet, being herself addicted to the use of that deleterious beverage.

“ Considering, from the history of this case, that it was one that would probably yield to the use of evacuations, a full dose of ipecacuan was ordered, which, owing to some family arrangements, he did not take till the 23d. It operated fully, and brought away a considerable quantity of viscid phlegm, and a greater quantity of alimentary matter than was believed possible, from the weak state of his appetite. He was then directed to have, for two days, evening and morning, two pills composed of the colocynth mass, with half a grain of calomel and James's powder in each. The pills operated freely ; the bowels were evidently loaded, and the matter passed was of a bilious nature. The vapour of the aqua ammoniae was directed to be applied to the eye three or four times a day.

“ On the 29th, from some suspicion of worms being expressed by his parents, he got a dose of oil of turpentine and castor-oil, which also acted very freely, but no appearance of worms. The 30th, a

small blister was applied to the mastoid process, and the following day it was dressed with the savine ointment. The ammonia excited considerable watering of the eye. The purgative pills were continued.

"On the 1st and 2d May, he complained of a feeling of itching in the eye. No change had been observed on the vision. On the evening of the 2d he said, when the reading-lamp was brought into the room, that he could see the light of it; but on trial, he could not distinguish the finger, or any object held up before him.

"On the 3d he got a cupful of senna tea instead of the pills, which operated three times, but more moderately in the quantity of the alvine discharge; and he said he could see his fingers. On the morning of the 4th, about four o'clock, he awoke, and was found by his mother labouring under a smart febrile attack; quick pulse, hot dry skin, thirst and headach. About six o'clock he had a most copious evacuation from his bowels, greater in quantity than any former one, and very consistent, with numerous lumps of indurated feces. This was succeeded by an immediate abatement of the febrile symptoms, and profuse perspiration. The skin had always been observed to be dry.

"When I saw him about mid-day, his sight was perfectly restored; he saw every object, even as minute as the second hand on my watch. The pulse was still quick. The issue discharged profusely, and occasioned so much irritation, that I desired the savine ointment to be omitted for twelve hours. He was directed to be kept in bed, and to take a dose of castor oil the following day.

"On the 7th, as the evacuations had become moderate and natural, he was allowed a respite of the purgatives; and as he appeared weak and rather languid, he was ordered half a drachm of tincture of columbo twice a day.

"On the 10th he returned home with his parents, the vision perfectly restored; to continue the blisters for ten days, and then to take small doses of bark and valerian twice or thrice a day; constant attention to be paid to the state of his bowels. The issue was obliged to be healed, in consequence of its exciting much irritation, and painful swelling of the superficial glands of the neck.

"This case points out very clearly the decided benefit derived from purgatives in such affections, frequently met with in young people, and generally found to be connected with derangement of the primæ viæ. In a young lady, who was under my care a few years ago, a similar plan succeeded, nearly in as short a period of time, in completely restoring the vision of both eyes. Her case had been considered by a country surgeon as one of approaching apoplexy, a very rare disease at the age of seventeen. In the present case, I am of opinion that the irritation of the issue was attended with considerable benefit, and contributed to bring it to a favourable termination."

#### ANEURISM OF THE RIGHT CAROTID ARTERY.

A very interesting case of this disease, in which a ligature applied above the sac, lately occurred in the practice of Mr. Wardrop, a

scientific Surgeon of London. The patient was a female about seventy years of age. The tumour occupied so great a space, that the usual mode of operation, by applying a ligature below it, to prevent an influx of blood, was impracticable, the lower part being under the clavicle. It occurred to Mr. Wardrop that if the transmission of blood through the aneurismal sac was prevented by tying the superior part of the trunk, the effect would be similar to that of tying it *below* the tumour. The tumour having rapidly enlarged within a few weeks, and the coats becoming very thin, Mr. Wardrop determined to give his patient a chance of a prolongation of life, by putting his idea into practice. As soon as the ligature was applied, the pulsation in the tumour completely ceased; and, in the course of three or four days, it had evidently decreased in size. The wound healed kindly, and the tumour continued to decrease in size, so that the patient in the course of one month required no further attendance. The disease having been of many years standing, the collateral or anastomosing vessels were so increased that the brain did not suffer from the application of the ligature, although, on being exposed, there was considerable action in the portion of the trunk above the tumour. The general health of the patient has since improved. This operation, we have no hesitation in saying, is the boldest and most interesting that has occurred in surgery, either ancient or modern. Had Mr. Abernethy applied a ligature *below* the aneurismal sac, instead of above it, in the case of aneurism of the external iliac artery, of which he has made such a "mighty bustle," would not the result have been more creditable to the surgical art? The practice adopted by Mr. Wardrop, if not entirely new, is *judiciously* bold, which certainly cannot be said of some new modern operations.

Since writing the above, we have been told that Sir Astley Cooper some years since applied a ligature below the sac in a case of aneurism of the external iliac artery, which occurred at Guy's Hospital, and that the tumour gradually decreased, and the patient was discharged cured; but, in a short period, he died suddenly, probably in consequence of internal hemorrhage from ulceration of the diseased artery.

#### ANATOMY.

To the labours of no individual are the medical profession, and consequently mankind in general, more indebted than to those of Mr. Lizars of Edinburgh. His anatomical plates, which are published periodically, are executed with a degree of accuracy that must transmit his name to the latest posterity, not only as an able anatomist and physiologist, but as one of the greatest benefactors to the medical world. The eighth part, which has lately appeared, exhibits eight different views of the brain, drawn and coloured from nature. To the apprentices of medical men, such a work must be invaluable, on account of enabling them to obtain such a knowledge of anatomy as will very considerably lessen their mental labours when completing their medical education at a London hospital or at an university. To the practitioner they are also highly valuable for occasional inspection, to keep up the knowledge of anatomy he acquired in the dissection room; and to the non-medical man of a philosophic mind, they afford beautiful subjects for contemplation. We have no hesitation in saying that the library of no gentleman, either medical

or non-medical, can be more ornamented by any work than by Mr. Lizars's *Anatomical Plates*; nay, we would go further, and say, that no library can be complete without them. Here the philosopher may indeed obtain that knowledge, which of all others is the most valuable, "a knowledge of himself."

#### ABERNETHY *versus* THE LANCET.

An eminent surgeon of London informs us that Mr. Abernethy being about to give up lecturing on surgery, and even to resign his appointment to St. Bartholomew's hospital, was perfectly indifferent as to the decision of the Lord Chancellor in granting or otherwise an injunction against the publisher of the *Lancet*, noticed in our last number. He states positively that Abernethy was not the *real* plaintiff, and that the actors were Messrs. S—, B—, and G—, young lecturers on surgery, who dreaded a publication of these lectures. If Mr. Charles Bell should consent to the publication of his lectures, the mercenary views of these *liberal* gentlemen will be completely frustrated.

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#### PHARMACY, &c.

##### CUBEBS.

Mr. Batley, a pharmaceutical chemist, of London, has discovered an essential oil in the cubeb pepper, which he considers of such importance, that he immediately communicated it to the members of the profession by a printed circular letter. He thinks that discovery accounts for the diversity of opinions which exists among some eminent surgeons, as to its value as a remedy for specific inflammation of the urethra or vagina. He supposes the virtue of the article resides in the essential oil, and that the practitioners who have not witnessed any beneficial effect from, but, on the contrary, have found it to increase the sufferings of their patients affected with the specific malady, employed an article which had lost its volatile oil, in consequence of having been exposed to the atmosphere.

The surgeons of London, who differ in opinion as to the efficacy of cubeb in gonorrhœal inflammation, obtained the cubeb in powder from the same place, and the *opposite* effects it has produced are therefore attributable to some peculiarity of constitution, and not to the presence or absence of an essential oil.

Of fifty male patients affected with specific inflammation of the urethra, the cubeb pepper in powder generally succeeds in *speedily* curing thirty-five, whilst in the other fifteen, it aggravates the disease, although no difference in the habit or temperament of the patients, or in the disease, is apparent. Such opposite effects arise from some peculiarity of constitution, which is discoverable only by the effect of the medicine, and, in consequence of such peculiarity, many valuable remedies have been abandoned by hasty practitioners.

As to the discovery of a volatile oil in the cubeb pepper, it was noticed some years since by Vanquelin, who published an analysis of it. Indeed the existence of a volatile oil in it must be evident to every person who possesses the sense of smell. The medicinal virtue of the article resides in an essential oil and resin, which united, very much resemble balsam copaiba, and on this account the saturated tincture is the best form for its exhibition—not made with

proof spirit, as recommended by Mr. Brande, but with a menstruum capable of extracting them, viz. *rectified* spirit. One would have supposed that a *chemist*, acquainted with the cubeb pepper, would not have recommended the tincture to be made with proof spirit. If the tincture be thus made at Apothecaries' Hall, the chemical department of which is superintended by Mr. Blande, we are not surprised it should have failed in the practice of those surgeons who are so weak as to suppose that the best chemical preparations are to be obtained from that quarter. The cubeb pepper has latterly given way to the buchu leaves, which are more certain, and not less speedy in subduing specific and simple inflammation of the urethra, vagina, &c.

#### NEW PERUVIAN BARK.

The name of the new bark lately imported from Columbia, is *Piloyna* Bark. It is held in Columbia in higher estimation than any other species of the *Cinchona*, as a tonic remedy. We have lately seen several letters from the most eminent physicians and surgeons of Jamaica, in which it is highly extolled as a remedy for intermittent and remittent fevers; and as a tonic in cases of local and general debility. It sits lighter on the stomach than any species of *Cinchona*, and from the reports we have received of it from some hospital practitioners, we are disposed to consider it a valuable addition to our *materia medica*. It is administered in the same dose and in the same manner as the Peruvian bark. A bale of it having been sent by a respectable gentleman to the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, to dispose of, to the profession, at the low price of 4s. a pound, we advise our medical readers to obtain a supply of it, as it will probably advance when its virtues are known. If we were ignorant of its properties we should certainly not give such advice. The bale containing only eighty pounds, no applicant can have more than three pounds at a time. The importer says that the price will never exceed 4s. a pound.

#### QUACKERY.

##### DR. GRAHAM'S ALCALINE SOLUTION.

SIRS,—Permit me, through the medium of your valuable Journal, to caution the public against a medicine puffed off by Dr. Graham, of Croydon, as a remedy for indigestion, for which he refers to a Mr. Watts, of the Strand, whom he terms a chemist. Not having seen your manly exposure of this physician's book, I was fool enough to purchase a bottle of it, for which I paid five shillings and sixpence. Being a chemist, I examined it, and found it to be nothing more than the liquor of pure potash of the London Pharmacopœia, diluted by water, the quantity which the bottle contained cost the maker one penny!—After this discovery, I went to chemist Watts, to remonstrate on what I thought an imposition. He did not deny the accuracy of my analysis—indeed he admitted it, but observed, he only sold it for Dr. Graham!!!

Now, my dear Sirs, as you dare to speak the truth, even of the legitimate, as well as the regular quack, I trust you will do me the favor to report this traffic to the College of Surgeons, of which the *Doctor* says he is a member!!!

I am, Sirs, your Constant Reader,

THOMAS JONES.

Park Lane, March 22, 1825.

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 117.

To SEPTEMBER 1, 1825.

VOL. X.

## PHYSIC.

### OF CUSTOM AND HABIT.

A KNOWLEDGE of the customs and habits of a patient is of no less importance in the treatment of disease, than that of the peculiarities of constitution, a description of which formed the leading article of our last number. It is common even for medical men to employ the terms *custom* and *habit* synonymously; but in their strict, or indeed professional acceptation, by *custom*, is meant a *frequent repetition of the same act*, and by *habit*, the *effect* the custom has either on the mind or body. The former is, therefore, the cause of the latter. Man, with all his boasted reason, is as much a creature of habit as any other animal. Custom produces a regularity in all his returning wants; and the hours of meals, exercise, and sleep, produce feelings of want, independent of any real demand. In general, the frequent and regular repetition of *small* impressions, produces habit, and their influence is soon disregarded; but *violent* impressions rarely if ever become habitual, for a repetition of them enfeebles the body and mind. To those who are capable of taking an original view of the influence of custom on our sensations, it must appear very extraordinary. Accustomed sensations, as we have observed, are so soon unnoticed, as to require an increased action to render them objects of attention; yet when the energy of the mind is excited by the sensation, custom augments the power of discrimination. The experienced shepherd is capable of distinguishing every individual sheep of his numerous flock: the artist will discover the beauties and imperfections invisible to the common eye: the musician will feel with pain the minutest discordance or deviation from tune: and the impression of ungrammatical language in the mind of a pedantic classic, will excite a degree of disgust that will induce him to despise the matter, however valuable it may be to a man of science. Custom, therefore, which diminishes, or entirely blunts, corporeal sensation, renders the mind more alive to impressions. Volition is more a simple impulse of the mind than an exertion, directed almost necessarily to an end, and is affected by custom nearly like the organs of the body. Thus, a sensation which excited a perceptible exertion of volition, will in time produce it and the correspondent action, without the person being sensible of its interference; and so very rapid is this progress, that two ends, or objects, are apparently willed at the same time, though, when examined, they are clearly distinct operations. But, though by custom a person is no longer sensible of certain bodily impressions, or the exercise of the will, yet the corporeal organs, in their several functions, acquire, like those of the mind, a peculiar accuracy of discrimination—the musician is not sensible of his willing any one motion, yet with the most exquisite nicety, he touches a particular part of the string, and executes a variety of the nicest and most

complicated motions, with a wonderfully delicate precision ; indeed, it appears to us a general rule in the animal economy, that if an idea has frequently produced an action, its power is increased ; but if the action connected with the idea has been prevented, the power is either greatly diminished, or entirely lost.

In a late number we have stated, that the will, by custom and exercise, may acquire a power over the motion of parts of the body not originally subject to it ; and in an article on habitual costiveness, we have noticed this power in promoting the action of the intestinal canal, after regularly attending the water-closet at one period of the day, independent of the action of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles, which are under the influence of the will. We have seen a man who, by frequent attempts to vomit, had brought the muscular fibres of his stomach so completely under the power of volition, that, by drawing it up, and giving it motion, he persuaded several eminent surgeons to suppose that he had an animal in his stomach ; and some of the leading surgeons of London were so deceived by this power, and his narrative, as to give him a certificate of their thorough conviction of the existence of some living thing in his stomach. A remarkable instance of an involuntary muscle being brought under the influence of the will, has been published, which occurred in the person of Colonel Townsend. This gentleman obtained such a power over the heart, as nearly to stop the circulation, and produce intermission of the pulse till he fainted : and Dr. Parr states, he “ knew an eminent lecturer on medicine, who in his youth could, and is perhaps still able, to produce a considerable effect on his pulse, by a power of influencing the action of the heart.” The power of custom, in increasing the force and facility of the action of muscles, and even of bringing only a portion of a muscle into action, is well known. In the action of medicine on the body, we find some variety. Moderate power by custom loses its peculiar effect ; thus the dose of an emetic, or an aperient medicine, after custom, requires to be augmented to produce the desired effect. By regular use the stomach will become accustomed to such a dose of vegetable poison, that would destroy life in another, who had not been in the habit of taking it. In Turkey, where the natives chew opium, in the same manner the British tars do tobacco, it is common for a person to take a quantity at a time, which would poison twenty people who had not been accustomed to it. We know a lady, who has been in the habit of taking laudanum for twenty years, to subdue a spasmodic affection of the bowels, who has found it necessary to increase the dose gradually, till she has arrived to the quantity of a wine-glassful—a quantity sufficient to poison two or three people, who have not been accustomed to the regular use of this drug. In prescribing an opiate medicine, to allay pain, subdue irritation, or procure sleep, it is therefore of consequence to know if the patient has been in the habit of taking opium, and the extent of the dose. The effects of a regular use of a spirituous or a vinous liquor is similar to that of laudanum or tobacco. The dram-drinker gradually requires an additional quantity, or augmented strength, of his favourite liquor, to produce a cheering effect. It is, therefore, of importance a prac-

titioner should be acquainted with the custom and habit of a patient, when addicted to the free use of spirits or wine, because, when it is necessary to stimulate the stomach by an aromatic, the dose should be proportioned to the quantity of spirits or wine to which he had been accustomed ; and in cases of inflammatory disease, the use of the lancet, and of depleting medicines, must be governed by the habit. Another effect of custom on the moving powers, resembles the operation of ideas. If two muscles, or even the different parts of one muscle, have been used to act together, exciting the action of one will produce that of the other. If, however, this kind of association be prevented by a strong effort of volition, and strengthened by a different habit, they are induced to act separately, with the greatest precision. This power is attained by musicians.

A singular effect has been attributed to custom, which may perhaps be more satisfactorily explained on other principles. As we usually feel only in the sentient extremities of nerves, it has been supposed, that from custom we refer every affection of the nerve, in its course to the extremities ; and thus to the man who has lost a leg, even many years, a pain in the stump appears to be seated in the toe ; and we have known a gentleman who had lost both legs, above the knee, affected with gouty inflammation at the ends of the stumps, which appeared to him to be in the feet, and exactly similar to the paroxysms he had experienced before he lost his legs, and to quiet his mind the clothes of the bed below his stumps were suspended by a strong cord, in the usual manner. This sensation, however, does not depend on custom ; for a disease at the origin, or in the course of a nerve, is at once referred to its extremity, though the sensation was never before experienced. In cases of epilepsy dependant on diseased structure in the brain, it is common for the convulsive disturbance of the system to commence in a foot, with the sensation of something (termed the electric aura) ascending to the brain ; and a pain in a foot, with a sense of numbness, is a common precursor of palsy of the same side, from mischief in the brain.

Custom, we find, regulates the degree of tension necessary for sensation. The soldier or sailor, accustomed to the sound of cannon, can hear a person speak in a common tone during the loudest roar ; and a person, whose hearing is bad, will hear well while a drum is beating, or when travelling in a carriage. A man who sleeps near a mill during the time that it is at work, producing a noise that may be heard at a considerable distance, is sensible of the slightest noise occasioned by any other means, or is in any way different. A man who has been accustomed for some time to be awake at a certain hour, will continue to awake at that time ; and this does not depend on the quantity of sleep : for whether he adjourns to his bed at an early or a late hour, he will awake at the same time. Custom equally regulates the degree of tension necessary to the muscular action, as the musician experiences by the degree of pressure suitable to the production of a given sound from a piano-forte or an organ : and it associates motions with sensations, not otherwise connected. For instance, there is no necessary connection

between a particular figure of a country-dance and a given tune, since many different figures may be given to it; but when the music begins, the accustomed movements, without any sensible exertion of volition, follow. Custom also associates different motions, though not necessarily, or naturally, connected; and from the habit established, they cannot be performed separately. It determines the degree of force and velocity with which motions can be performed, and which, after the habit is established, cannot be violated. A blacksmith, unless peculiarly favoured, cannot become a watchmaker. Custom also establishes the order in which certain sensations and motions return. An infant may soon be brought to feed at regular hours; and those who retire to the garden immediately after breakfast, will feel little or no inconvenience should their breakfast be delayed an hour or two. The same call will also regularly return with almost every change of the constitution, in other respects. These motions, established and associated by custom, are sometimes broken with difficulty, and occasionally with injury to the constitution. If the supplies of food, or the discharge of the excretions, be not obeyed, the call will often not again recur till the next period, and the feelings in the interval will be uncomfortable. Indeed, the deprivation of the most trifling accustomed gratification, frequently injures the health, while the most discordant noises, the most offensive smells, or the most disgusting object, lose every unpleasing effect from habit. It was this circumstance that occasioned the ancient sage to remark, “*Optimum vitæ genus eligito nam consuetudo faciet jucundissimum* (choose the best occupation, for custom will make it the pleasantest). On the other hand, these accustomed associated motions render many diseases very obstinate, as ague, epilepsy, &c., when the periodical return is established. In such circumstances, we cannot often succeed without stopping, as it were, all motion, to commence a new and more salutary series. Mr. Abernethy, in his Lectures on Surgery, mentions a case of epilepsy in an opulent gentleman, which uniformly occurred on entering his carriage. Mr. Abernethy, supposing that interruption of the ideas, which were concatenated with his effort to enter the carriage, would prevent the paroxysm, directed a person to surprise him by some remark, or action, at the time he was about to put his foot on the step. This interruption had the desired effect, and the gentleman afterwards entered the carriage without any dread of experiencing a return of his malady. We knew an epileptic patient in Chepstow (a ship carpenter), who, when at work in the most perilous situations, always felt perfectly secure from a recurrence of a fit; but on being in a situation which did not engage the mind, generally experienced a fit.

We may here notice the impressions made on the mind before reason has scarcely dawned on it, and which frequently continue after reason has arrived to maturity, and the mind enlightened by education and observation. The mind of a Jew, even of a liberal education, is so prejudiced against the flesh of the swine, (which, to a Christian, is often a great luxury,) that nothing will induce him to eat it. An Englishman has, from early impressions, as great an

aversion to the flesh of the horse, although a clean-feeding animal, as the Jew has to that of a swine. We have known a British officer make a very hearty dinner of a steak of a young horse that had been killed in battle, which was introduced as a beef-steak ; who, on being told two hours after the meal, that it was the flesh of horse, vomited violently, and for some years experienced nausea on seeing a beef-steak. A Hindoo, again, has an unconquerable objection to the flesh of the cow and of the pea-fowl, which, with Europeans, are great favourites. A Frenchman considers the hind quarter of a frog a great dainty, to which, from prejudice of education, an Englishman has an invincible dislike.—Religious prejudices and opinions, impressed on the mind before reason has taken full possession of her throne, generally exist for life, and have an influence on disease, and on the operation of medicines.

The doctrines of some sects of the Christian religion, particularly those which lay more stress on faith than on the *practice* of Christianity, the fruit of which is generally enthusiasm or melancholy, (both nearly allied to insanity, if not the commencement of it,) keep up such a state of excitement in the nervous system, that, in case of an attack of fever, either inflammatory or putrid, the brain becomes so disturbed, that if the unfortunate patient should survive it, he will probably continue idiotic or insane for the remainder of his days. Such subjects require a larger dose of an opiate than the common one to allay morbid irritation or procure sleep ; and on some religious enthusiasts, even a large dose of laudanum has no effect. Although enthusiasm keeps the brain and nerves in a state of excessive excitement, it is remarkable such people will go through painful operations and punishment with apparent insensibility. The tortures Hindoos will undergo to obtain what is termed a caste, with apparent pleasure, may be adduced as proofs of the influence of enthusiasm, in rendering the nerves unsusceptible of pain ; but the effect of enthusiasm of Christianity, in rendering the feeling callous, is so generally known, as to render a notice of one instance unnecessary. The Catholic religion, instead of increasing the excitement of the brain and nervous system, tends to calm them. The firm conviction that a priest possesses the power of absolving sins, tends greatly to quiet the mind, and of course the brain and nervous system ; and the firmness,—we were going to say philosophy,—with which a Catholic subject meets death, after the ceremony of confession and absolution, is surprising. The tranquillity of mind this deception produces, promotes the efficacy of medicine, and to it alone many a patient is indebted for his recovery. The Catholic ceremonies are melancholy proofs how far reason itself may be checked by early impressions, and its progress suspended by the influence of crafty men. The dupes were brought up by their ignorant patients to consider it a crime to exercise their reason on the Catholic religion, and a virtue to point out and censure the absurdities of all others ; and if they dare to comment on any doctrine or ceremony of Catholicism, they are deemed guilty of heresy. Catholics, in consequence of their restricted education, are, in fact, incapable of bringing their reasoning power to bear. on

their own religion ; and their religion is therefore, in some degree, maniacal, or, professionally speaking, the subjects are partially insane, inasmuch as they are incapable of exercising the reasoning faculty on one subject, viz. religion. By this system of education, the dupes are rendered slaves without being sensible of their degraded situation. The only difference between the dupes of the priest and the ass he keeps, is, the former, by their labour, supplies him with corn, and the latter has the labour of taking it to the mill to be ground. In such a miserable state of ignorance are those poor wretches kept, that they really suppose their priests to be wonderfully learned, because, like the physicians of Warwick-lane, they are capable of carrying on their trade in the Latin tongue. We have heard a French priest preach in Latin to a large congregation, three parts of which did not understand the meaning of a single word, yet all gaped at him with wonder and delight strongly expressed in their countenances. Man is, indeed, the child of prejudice and the creature of custom, which make an easy dupe to imposture.

It is not in Catholic countries alone that a dead language is employed as a cloak for ignorance and imposture ; for by means of it, as Dr. Armstrong very justly observed, in a late lecture on diseases, "Some of the most shallow men in the profession have gained the confidence of the highest classes, and, by cant of technicalities, the art of concealing ignorance, and of pleasing their weak patients, have been able to keep it." The Doctor laments, the public have not been enabled to estimate the comparative merits of the medical men in whom they confide their lives. On this subject we have so much to say, and so much to expose, that we must postpone its conclusion till our next number.

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### DROPSY OF THE BELLY.

The Association of Fellows and Licentiates of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, has published the following case of dropsy of the belly (ascites), which was cured by the pyrola umbellata (noticed in our 3d volume, p. 399,) under the direction of Dr. John Beaty, of Dublin, after the most active ordinary medicines had proved ineffectual.

On the 23d of February, Dr. Beaty was requested to visit Miss R—, aged four years, who had been, until within a few weeks, a very fine, healthy, and lively child. The doctor found the abdomen greatly enlarged, with evident fluctuation ; the bowels obstinately costive ; the faeces white ; the urine turbid and scanty, not exceeding half a pint in twenty-four hours, with considerable thirst, and general languor.

The remedies which had been employed for four months having proved unavailing, the doctor thought it unnecessary to give a particular detail of them. He first directed powders, with calomel, scammony, and foxglove, to be taken every night, with a liniment of spirits of turpentine and camphorated oil, to be rubbed over the abdomen. Her bowels were repeatedly emptied by a draught of turpentine and tincture of jalap, and her usual drink was a solution

of cream of tartar. From the 6th of April to the 6th of May, half a drachm of mercurial ointment was rubbed on her side every night, by the advice of Dr. Perceval, and she took a tonic mixture at the same time. This treatment having failed, the nitro-muriatic bath, as recommended by Dr. Scott, was tried, which produced soreness of the mouth, and itching of the skin ; but, although it appeared to have the effect of raising the child's spirits, and procuring her better sleep, yet no change in the disease followed; and after a perseverance of a month it was discontinued, on account of an excoriation of the ankle.

A free use of cream of tartar and tincture of jalap was followed by an increase of urine, to the amount of a pint in twenty-four hours. She also took powdered squill and tartarised iron, yet her belly continued to increase in size, and her capability of taking exercise was diminished. After this she was sent to the country, where she continued her medicines, took goats' whey, with dandelion juice, and exercise on a jaunting-car, as much as could be borne with convenience.

On the 27th of June Dr. B. was requested to see her, in order to determine on the propriety of tapping, the swelling of the abdomen having much increased, accompanied by such a degree of emaciation of the extremities, &c. languor, loss of sleep, and appetite, that it was considered absolutely necessary to give her this temporary relief, all hopes of her recovery having been now relinquished by her parents and friends.

Doctor Beaty now determined, as a last resource, previously to resorting to the operation, to give the *pyrola umbellata* a trial. He accordingly directed "an ounce of the plant to be infused in a pint of boiling water for an hour and a half, a pint of the liquor to be strained off, to be divided into six draughts, one to be taken three times daily." The result was such as to exceed the most sanguine expectations : the urine, almost immediately, became natural in appearance, and was increased to three or four times its usual quantity : the alvine discharge, for the first time since her illness, recovered its natural colour and consistence. Her general appearance was sensibly improved, and her spirits began to return.

On the 21st of July she appeared to be perfectly recovered ; the swelling of the abdomen was completely removed, and all the secretions regular and healthy. On the 3d September she continued free from all pain. The infusion of the *pyrola umbellata* is an agreeable bitter, and in this instance it almost altogether superseded the use of an aperient, a fact which has not been noticed by Dr. Somerville.

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#### POISONOUS DOSES OF LAUDANUM SWALLOWED.

Mr. Ashford, a Surgeon of Hinkley, has lately succeeded, by means of Read's stomach pump (described in a late Number), in a case of a poisonous dose of laudanum taken with the intent to destroy life. About forty-five minutes after the article had been swallowed, twenty grains of white vitriol (sulphate of zinc), dissolved in water, were administered and repeated in the course of ten minutes. Mr. Ashford

saw her about ten minutes after she had taken the last, when no symptoms of vomiting appearing, he "mixed two tea-spoonsful of mustard (prepared for domestic purposes) with four ounces of tepid water, as the readiest method of producing vomiting, which," says he, "under *all circumstances*, I was disposed to believe would effect the removal of the deleterious drug from the stomach. Very shortly after this exhibition, the patient vomited copiously, and appeared to be much relieved." In consequence of this favourable effect, Mr. Ashford "remained some time with the patient, and finding the symptoms not to indicate a necessity of further interference, he left her, directing the attendants to suffer" (query *not?*) "the patient to lie down; and should there appear a necessity, to send for him again." Before an hour had elapsed, Mr. Ashford received a summons to attend the patient *immediately*. On his arrival, he found her in a sound sleep, the face almost black, frothing at the mouth, and snoring loudly." The case being now desperate, Mr. Ashford had recourse to the use of Read's apparatus (certainly, better late than never). After ejecting three quarts of warm water, the stomach threw up part of its contents, and the remainder was evacuated by the syringe. When nearly the whole of the fluid had been evacuated, the remaining part of the mustard emetic, and afterwards a dark brown mucus, appeared.

Having thus removed the poison from the stomach, Mr. Ashford directed his attention to the state of the intestines, and, being obstinately confined, he administered a strong purgative at short intervals, till it produced the desired effect. Before this was accomplished, and some time after, it was with difficulty she was kept awake. Fever, however, followed, with hysterical fits, which in a few days were subdued by the usual remedies, and the patient recovered. He afterwards ascertained, that the patient had taken between two and three ounces of laudanum, and ten grains of crude opium.

Dr. Jenkins, an American physician, has published a case, in which between two and three doses of laudanum had been taken, by mistake, into the stomach. He found the patient (a female) with a cadaverous countenance, the mouth and eyes half closed, extremities, and surface of the trunk, nearly cold, and other symptoms of approaching dissolution. The doctor, finding an emetic, composed of sulphate of copper (blue vitriol) and emetic tartar, had been administered without effect, resolved to exhibit the spirit of turpentine, both by the mouth and clysterwise. The following composition was thrown up.

Take of Rectified Oil of Turpentine, one ounce;

The Yolk of an Egg.

After being well blended in a mortar, add,

Half a Pint of Tepid Water.

Three tea-spoonsful of the following mixture were given every fifteen minutes.

Take of Rectified Oil of Turpentine, two ounces;

Castor Oil, one ounce—Mix.

The clyster was retained only a short time, and was repeated within half an hour. In a few hours an evident improvement took

place. Her lips and countenance lost, in a great degree, their ghastly hue; a degree of warmth had returned to the extremities and surface in general; and a pulsation at each wrist was to be distinctly felt. No evacuation from the bowels having taken place, the doctor ordered a clyster of a solution of soap to be administered, and the mixture of turpentine and castor oil to be continued.

In about six hours the doctor visited her again, when, to his astonishment he found her sitting up (out of bed), conversing with her friends. Her system, however, says the doctor, was visibly much exhausted, and her ideas rather wandering. Shortly before this visit, an active purging had taken place, and dark offensive matter had been discharged, after which the patient rapidly recovered. If the patient had really swallowed the quantity of laudanum specified in the narrative, the good effects of the spirit of turpentine are probably to be attributed to its *stimulating* operation on the coats of the stomach, and not to any chemical action on the poison, in rendering it inert. The editors of the New York Medical Journal notice two similar cases, in which the affusion of cold water, recommended by us in a former Number, succeeded.

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### RHEUMATISM, GOUT, ASTHMA, &c.

Mr. J. Frost, a member of the Royal Institution, in a short dissertation on the meadow saffron, prefers the flowers of that plant to the root, as a remedy for gout and rheumatism. He thinks a great advantage they possess is, that the *strength* and *properties* of the *preparation* of them are *always* uniform, because the collector cannot err in the time of selecting them, and their virtues cannot be readily impaired by the mode of conducting the processes. He adds, that "his friend," Dr. Pearson, has found an infusion of the flowers beneficial in a case of *chronic asthma*.

It is true, as intimated by Mr. Frost, the roots of the meadow saffron are rarely to be obtained in a state of perfection, in consequence of being collected at an improper season, or of not being properly dried. To the flowers there is one great objection, namely, of their crumbling, if not immediately exposed to a dry air, and speedily dried; and, even when properly dried, they are very apt to become mouldy. To the seeds the objections started, by Mr. Frost, to the roots, and those we have made to the flowers, do not apply. They are not collected till they are ripe, and retain their medicinal virtues many years. The preparations of the roots and flowers operate violently on the stomach and intestines of irritable invalids, and even on the apparently robust, frequently exciting vomiting and violent purging; whereas the preparation of the seeds seldom disorder the stomach, or disturb the intestines; at the same time, act more beneficially in allaying rheumatic and gouty pains, and in quieting the nervous system. And hence physicians and surgeons of *experience* and *observation* (whose practice has enabled them to give the different parts of the plant a *fair trial*) prescribe the preparations of the seeds in preference to those of the root or flowers—namely, the alcaline tincture (in rheumatism and gout), and the oxymel (in asthma and constitutional cough.)

As to the great difference of opinion which is maintained by many eminent practitioners with regard to the meadow saffron, as a remedy for gout and rheumatism, we are satisfied that the opposite opinions may be justly attributed to the substitution of the root for the seeds in making the preparations, and to the exhibition of them without proper attention to the state of the stomach and intestines, the peculiarities and customs of the patients, the necessity of which we have always pointed out, on recommending the preparations of the seeds to the attention of our readers. The difference of opinion respecting these preparations, has arisen, in fact, from their abuse, not from their proper use; or, in other words, the ignorance of the prescriber, and from the dishonest conduct of the makers. One of the editors of a periodical medical journal (we believe Dr. Darwall), states, "We have employed the meadow saffron, wine, and tincture, very much lately, but have never yet seen harm arise beyond a little vomiting and purging, which have generally given relief. Certainly, it is not *always* a safe remedy in gout; there it requires much discrimination."

The meadow saffron is a very powerful medicine, and, in the hands of ignorance is capable of doing serious mischief, especially in a nervous subject, much reduced either by irregular or regular gout (the former especially); but, under the superintendance of an experienced and observant practitioner, it is one of the most valuable remedies for gout, rheumatism, and irritative affections of the lungs, that has been introduced into the *materia medica*.

In our 8th Vol. p. 721, we have introduced a concise account of a species of rheumatism first noticed by Sir Astley Cooper, occasioned by absorption of matter, from specific inflammation of the urethra. This species, termed gonorrhœal rheumatism, has lately been observed by some eminent surgeons in London, and, according to the reports of one, is very common. Sir Astley Cooper has frequently found it to alternate with the specific inflammation of the urethra, and in nearly all the cases the gonorrhœal affection had become suspended by the free exhibition of the cubeb pepper. We lately met with a very decisive case of gonorrhœal rheumatism in Brighton. The patient (a man about forty years of age, and of thin, spare habit) visited Brighton, by the recommendation of a medical gentleman of great eminence, chiefly for the purpose of using the warm vapour bath. The remedy having aggravated the pains, and considerably reduced his general health, he applied to us for further advice. He complained of great pain in both his legs, and particularly in the calf of his left leg. On examining the limbs, he found the seat of pain to be in the ligaments of the joints and membranous coverings of the bones, the slightest pressure over any part of the bones not covered, or slightly covered, by muscles, producing acute pain. There was no tumefaction, or any appearance of nodes. Having an eruption on the thighs and abdomen of a suspicious appearance, we interrogated him as to the probable cause, when he told us, that he had been affected for a short time with specific inflammation of the urethra, but that he had had no ulceration or glandular swelling, or any syphilitic affection. The

gonorrhœal complaint, he said, had been cured about four months, not by an injection, but by taking a very hot medicine, which was, from his account, evidently the cubeb-pepper. From the effects of warm vapour, the copper-coloured eruption, and other circumstances, it appeared to us to be a true case of gonorrhœal rheumatism. We ordered two pills, composed of blue pill, four grains; and extract of henbane, four grains, to be taken every night at bed-time: and three table-spoonsful of the following mixture to be taken three times a day.

Take of Infusion of Buchu Leaves, seven ounces;  
Tincture of ditto, one ounce—Mix.

We also ordered the parts which were most painful to be gently rubbed for five minutes, with the following liniment every night and morning:

Take of Ointment of Belladonna,

— Quicksilver, of each two drachms;  
Almond Oil, one ounce;  
Strong Liquor of Ammonia, four drachms.

To be well mixed, by agitation in a vial.

After using these remedies three days, the pains had considerably abated, and his general health had evidently improved. On the fifth day, when he was nearly free from pain, he discovered symptoms of returning specific inflammation of the urethra, which increased as the pain in the extremities decreased, and his general health improved. The treatment was continued for three weeks, when the affection of the urethra gradually ceased, and the patient in a short time was in perfect health.

A respectable surgeon informs us, that all the cases of this species of rheumatism he has met with, were, in his opinion, the consequence of long-continued specific inflammation, or irritative gleet, in which no injection had been employed; and that he is satisfied the use of an injection would have prevented the complaint.

### PALSY OF THE LOWER EXTREMITIES.

Doctor Cumming, an eminent physician of Dublin, has lately communicated the following case of palsy of the lower extremities, attended with morbid irritation of the bladder, which was cured by the buchu leaves.

Henderson Waters, a debilitated, emaciated man, thirty-one years of age, was affected with fever; urine loaded with slime, dribbling almost constantly from him, or else escaping in the quantity of half an ounce every five minutes. The lower extremities were totally paralyzed, and the upper ones nearly so. His lower limbs rigid, and frequently jerked up under him by painful spasms: severe pain in the soles of his feet. Much irritation in the rectum. The last dorsal vertebra was more prominent than usual; but no pain was caused by forcible pressure.

He had been five years affected with weakness in his knees, which, to use his own words, "gradually extended from them over all his body." In a month after the first symptoms of disease, the muscles

of the spine became very weak, obliging him to be almost constantly lying down. In four months he became totally paralytic.

On the commencement he was bled, blistered on the back and chest. An issue was established in the cervical region, and kept open a long time, without affording any relief; tepid salt water baths were also used, without benefit. A month since the moxa was applied to the lumbar region: at first he thought there was an amendment in his limbs. During the last week he was attacked with violent rigors, succeeded by hot sweating stages, for four days successively, which ended in continued fever. The doctor prescribed the following bolus, to be taken immediately.

Take of Calomel, eight grains;

Powdered Jalap, fifteen grains;

Capsicum, three grains—Mix.

Lenitive Electuary, a sufficient quantity to make a bolus, and a draught of Castor Oil four hours afterwards.

A Warm Bath in the evening.

On the following day he had had two stools; less fever; tongue cleaner; feels better; the urine paler. The doctor ordered the medicine to be repeated, and a turpentine clyster to be administered in the evening.

On the next day, the fever had ceased; but the irritation of bladder not diminishing, he ordered the following mixture.

Take of Infusion of Buchu Leaves, seven ounces;

Tincture of ditto,

Tincture of Cubebs, of each one ounce—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day.

The following day, he could retain his urine for half an hour at a time, and he was nearly free from pain; the bladder was strengthened, and his appetite improved. There was a slight slough on the top of the thigh, from pressure and debility. Ordered a nourishing diet, and to continue the buchu.

The subsequent day he was in every respect better; can now retain his urine for two or three hours at a time: no uneasiness in the bladder. For some days has set up: looks greatly improved. Tongue, pulse, and bowels natural.

At his work, as watchmaker; can retain his urine for four or five hours; health good; limbs much stronger.

The medicine was continued a few days longer, when he was pronounced cured.

### POISONING BY FOXGLOVE.

For the following cases of poisoning by foxglove, we are indebted to Mr. Willet, an experienced surgeon of Chepstow.

An old lady, residing in the neighbourhood of Chepstow, who has a son afflicted with some severe glandular swellings of the neck, conceived she could cure him by the common panacea of Wales, *herb tea*. She consequently made a strong infusion of foxglove (*digitalis purpurea*), of which the copious libations taken daily soon produced extreme and alarming debility. Mr. Willet pre-

scribed a bolus of the aromatic confection thrice a day, with some cold brandy and water, which afforded great relief; but he continued very weak for a considerable time. A medical friend communicated a similar case to Mr. Willet, which occurred at Caermarthen, by a woman giving to a child the infusion of foxglove, for the purpose of curing the ague. Mr. Willet states, that he was likewise applied to some time ago by a woman who had taken three pills of what she supposed to be pill coccia, but which, upon examination, he found to be blistering plaster. She complained much of very acute pain in the stomach, fruitless attempts to vomit, and much fever. He ordered a dose of castor oil, a weak solution of gum arabic, in warm water and milk, to be freely drank.

### INDIGESTION, GRAVEL, RHEUMATISM, &c.

At a late meeting of an association of medical men in Dublin, Dr. Reid read a communication from Dr. Ephraim M'Dowall, on the medicinal virtues of the buchu leaves, in which the doctor states, that he found an infusion of them very beneficial in a case of a young man of sedentary habits and sallow countenance, who was affected by acidity in the stomach, irregular bowels, flatulence, and frequent attacks of head ache. He found two ounces of the infusion, taken three times a day, to occasion a striking amendment, producing a keen appetite, improving the colour of the skin, and in curing the head ache. The urinary secretion was increased by it, but no action on the bowels was observed. It succeeded in restoring the patient to health. Dr. Hulton, an eminent physician of Dublin, says, "he found the infusion very serviceable in a case of indigestion, which followed an injury of the brain and spinal marrow. It relieved nausea and flatulence, and considerably improved the appetite." He adds: "I had an opportunity of meeting with a case of gravel (of the uric acid kind, in a sedentary and dyspeptic individual, the attack coming on whenever the digestive organs were deranged, and frequently lasting with much severity for three days, attended with violent pain, shooting in the course of the ureters to the groins, anterior part of the thighs, &c. ; much fever, restlessness, and irritability; any excess in drinking wine invariably produced an attack. He has been for the last three years in the habit of taking a solution of pure potass whenever attacked, and usually continued it for a considerable time, in quantities amounting to an ounce daily. In a late paroxysm, he took it in an infusion of buchu leaves—a white sediment in the urine, in large quantity, was the result. He then omitted the potass, and took the buchu alone. He recovered rapidly, both the red and white deposit ceasing to recur." The doctor adds: "The beneficial effects on the urinary organs in this case appeared to arise from the great improvement it first produced in the functions of the stomach." In chronic rheumatism, for which it is considered by the native of the Cape an infallible remedy, Dr. Hulton has found it "to act with uncertainty, in some instances producing no benefit, and in others appearing to be superior to the remedies in general use."

There is a variety of indigestion common in this country, from nervousness of the viscera, &c. of the belly (probably from a disordered condition of the ganglions, brought on by severe mental distress), in which the buchu leaves have proved singularly beneficial. In this variety, although the presence of gas and acidity shews that the stomach does not perform its office, the appetite is generally good. The fecal secretion is very irregular, and intestines easily disordered, by an aperient medicine; ripe fruit often occasioning purging. The belly is often almost suddenly distended, without any evident accumulation of gas, or feces; and there is frequently a sensation of distension when the bowels are soft, which is generally removed by eating or drinking. The urine varies much in colour even in the course of a day, being sometimes pale, and at others of a dark red appearance, and after standing is covered with a film, and deposits a sediment. The feces are for the most part of a proper colour, but, when soft and frequent, emit an offensive odour. The lower extremities are generally painful, particularly the calves and the feet, on taking exercise, and also subject to cramp, on being kept for a few hours in one position, or riding on horseback. The patient is much disposed to drowsiness and to dreaming, and talk or mutter during sleep, but his mind is far from being hypochondriacal, being in general so indifferent to his health, as to indulge in articles of diet, although he knows they will disorder his bowels. His mind is generally very irascible, and his feelings very acute. In females this complaint is attended with the peculiar croaking, or grumbling noise in the bowels, technically termed *borborygmus*; and physicians, supposing it to be hysterical, generally prescribe the remedies which have obtained the reputation of allaying nervous irritation, in consequence of exciting disgust in the mind, as *assæcetida*, *valerian*, *galbanum*, &c., and stimulants, as *Peruvian balsam*, *sal volatile*, *ginger*, &c., which afford temporary relief by exciting the nerves, the internal membrane of the alimentary canal.

In this species of indigestion, the buchu leaves have proved very beneficial, and experience has satisfied us, that it is more efficacious in invigorating the nervous system, and allaying irritation or irritability, than any article of the *materia medica*. It may be administered in cases of nervous indigestion, nervous head ache, tremours, palsy, chronic rheumatism, nausea attendant on pregnancy, and atonic gout, combined with other articles, as the following:

Take of Infusion of Buchu Leaves \*, half a pint;  
Tincture of Colombo, four drachms—Mix.

If the patient be subject to depression of spirits, three drachms of the compound spirit of ammonia may be added; or if acidity should prevail in the stomach, to the degree as to occasion the sensation termed heartburn, three drachms of the carbonate of soda. In cases of fluor albus an ounce of the compound tincture of rhubarb root may be substituted for the tincture of columbo.

\* Made by infusing half an ounce of the leaves in boiling water, in a close vessel, for about three hours, during which the vessel should be agitated four or five times.

At the Cape of Good Hope, the buchu leaves are held in great estimation, as a remedy for nearly all the diseases to which the human frame is subject; and whoever considers its effects on the body when taken internally, cannot be surprised that it should prove beneficial in a great variety of diseases. An article capable of invigorating the digestive organs, keeping up the peristaltic action, increasing the secretion of the kidneys, strengthening the nervous system, and allaying morbid irritation and irritability, must of course be applicable to a vast number of diseases, even those of an opposite nature. It is not only a stomachic in cases of indigestion from nervousness of the stomach or of all the abdominal viscera, but the most certain diuretic that has been introduced into the practice of medicine; and the office of the kidneys being to convey impurities from the blood, a medicine capable of promoting their secretion must necessarily prove beneficial in various diseases. It is probable, to its action on the kidneys, the beneficial effects of spirit of turpentine and other diuretics medicine, in a variety of diseases, are attributable. Independent of promoting the separation of foul matter from the blood, such medicines, from the sympathy which exists between all the viscera, by bringing the kidneys into healthy action, harmonize as it were the whole. The buchu leaves, however, not only act beneficially on the kidneys, but also primarily on the stomach and nervous system; and in the diseases enumerated above, as well as irritative affections of the bladder and rectum, is the most valuable remedy that has been introduced into the practice of medicine in this country since medicine has been cultivated as a science; and it is to be hoped that its reputation will not suffer by the use of the different species which have lately been imported into this country, many of which we find on distillation to afford an acrid oil, which instead of quieting the stomach, cannot fail to disorder it.

A medical gentleman, who has been subject to indigestion and costiveness for many years, informs us, that he has derived more benefit from the following pills than any other composition:

Take of Alcaline Extract of Jalap, 1 drachm;  
Ipecacuanha Powder, 12 grains;  
Ginger Powder, 12 grains;  
Extract of Gentian, 12 grains;  
Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, 1 scruple.

To be well mixed, and divided into 24 pills. Two to be taken every day about an hour before dinner.

He observes that the ipecacuan powder, by its peculiar action on the mucous membrane of the stomach, occasions it to throw off superabundant mucus, which is a common cause of indigestion and costiveness, and that the addition of a bitter, as the extract of gentian, increases the action of all aperient medicines. He had for some time taken a composition of aloes and mastic gum, sold under the name of Lady Webster's dinner pills, with evident advantage, but their continued use had brought on such a serious affection of the rectum, that he was under the necessity of abandoning them.

## VOMITING OF BLOOD.

Dr. Sheridan, an Irish physician, has published a few cases of vomiting of blood, which were cured by emetic doses of ipecacuan powder. In his prefatory remarks he says that his father, who practised medicine with considerable repute in the county of Cavan, upwards of half a century, was in the habit of giving an emetic of ipecacuan in cases of *vomiting* of blood (*haematemesis*), and he declared this practice never disappointed his expectations when *timely* used, during a course of thirty-nine years' experience. Notwithstanding the success that uniformly attended the practice and the partiality for a father's opinion, "numerous considerations deterred the son from following it for several years." Having at length witnessed some fatal instances of this disease, he determined to have recourse to his father's practice, and in the five cases which fell under his observation, the success was complete. The disease in females being often vicarious, generally terminating spontaneously, without disturbing the general health, the patient on the contrary being frequently relieved by it, we have selected from the doctor's proofs of the efficacy of the treatment that of a male, in whom the complaint is always to be regarded as serious.

"Mr. Turpin, a builder, had been much exposed to cold and wet in his business, and for the last eight or ten years had not enjoyed good health, being subject to pain above the region of the stomach, "which was sometimes so violent as to oblige him to twist about in his bed like an eel." Food of every kind generally produced pain in his stomach. He sometimes vomited, and his bowels were disposed to be too loose. About nine o'clock in the morning, after experiencing severe pain in the stomach, palpitation of the heart, nausea, &c., he threw up a pint of *coagulated* dark blood, and shortly afterward some ounces of *fluid* dark blood. The doctor saw him in about four hours after the first vomiting, when he complained of a sense of *great* oppression, *considerable* palpitation, and *slight* pain about the stomach. The pulse was weak and low, but not very quick. The doctor ordered an emetic dose of ipecacuan powder, but before it was procured, the pain in the stomach became intense, and he vomited about three quarts of *grumous* dark blood. Great debility followed, but no alteration of symptoms. The emetic was then administered, which in a few minutes operated, and he threw up about a pint of blood of the same appearance as the last. All the symptoms now subsided, and he found himself perfectly relieved; the extremities, which had been cold, becoming warm. He fell asleep, during which a gentle perspiration came on, which continued for many hours; his pulse became full, soft, and regular, and he felt himself more free from pain, oppression, or sickness than he had been for years before. On the following day the doctor ordered a mercurial purge, which brought away a great quantity of matter, similar to that he had vomited, but somewhat blacker. His general health afterwards continued to improve, but he was still weak. Notwithstanding the advice the doctor had given him to live *abstemiously*, &c. "he

made too free, and the pain in the region of the stomach, the sense of oppression, &c. returned." Under these circumstances, the doctor did not hesitate to repeat the emetic of ipecacuan, after the operation of which the symptoms vanished, and he rapidly advanced to a state of health.

The successful results of artificial vomiting, in all the cases of *vomiting of blood* (five) in which the doctor has had an opportunity of employing it, he says, has made such an impression on his mind, "that he can never hesitate for a moment to have recourse to it." The doctor thus accounts scientifically for the beneficial effects of an emetic, in cases of vomiting of blood, or of blood escaping into the stomach. The blood, from its dark colour, he supposes to be *venous* (from a vein), although, on examination of the internal surface of the stomach of those who have died of the disease, no appearance of a ruptured vessel, or organic mischief, could be discovered. He conceives the motion of the blood in the veins of the abdomen is *necessarily* slow; and as the veins are without valves, any obstruction in the liver, torpidity, or debility in its veins, produce not only stagnation through *all* the veins of the belly, but also a *retrograde motion of the blood*, whence, "says he, "an *inverted* motion of the veins follow, as their vital energy, thus roused, must be directed that way."—Thus, says he, "the venous blood is protruded into the exhalents, which being capable of great distension, pour forth into the abdominal cavities great quantities of blood, in a very short space of time. By the action of vomiting," he thinks, "this *inverted* motion is altered, the *vital* power of the veins is roused in a contrary direction, and the blood propelled in its natural course; and in this manner, it appears to him, that an "end is put to the diseased action." The dark colour of the blood, in our opinion, is not a decisive proof of its being *venous*, because arterial blood may undergo a considerable change, so as to lose its florid appearance during its retention in the stomach, as it may be rendered dark by a chemical action in the stomach or its contents; for it is clear, by its coagulation, and the appearance of the thin blood, that it had been some time in the stomach previously to its exciting vomiting. If the veins of the belly become over distended, so as to occasion the blood to regurgitate, we cannot see any reason why the pressure of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles, to which the beneficial effects of an emetic is attributed, should force the blood *more* in one direction than in another; but the idea of the "motion of the veins being inverted," is, in our humble opinion, ridiculous. Why, again, should the circulation in the internal veins be *necessarily* slow? The peristaltic motion of the intestines, the action of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles, and the degree of temperature of the viscera, one would suppose, would rather render it more active in the internal veins than in those of the extremities, or the superficial veins. In cases of spitting of blood, when the blood is brought up from the lungs (by coughing or hawking), although it is florid, or what is termed *arterial*, it escapes from veins (that blood being circulated by veins in the lungs), and in such case would the learned doctor attribute the disease to languid cir-

culation and regurgitation of blood in the veins? Between vomiting and spitting of blood, there is, in our opinion, very little, if any difference; having frequently observed them to alternate in females whose menstrual secretions were suppressed. Emetics have been highly extolled in the treatment of both.

If the good effects of the emetic in the practice of Dr. Sheridan were produced by the *mechanical* action of the muscles which it brought into action, why did not *spontaneous* vomiting succeed? One would suppose, the mechanical effects of spontaneous and artificial vomiting would be the same. There is a very evident difference in the effects of each vomiting on the *whole system*, which we think cannot be solely attributed to the *mechanical* action of muscles. During spontaneous vomiting, the pulse will flag, the extremities will continue cold, and the skin clammy, and in this state they will remain after it has ceased; but during vomiting excited by an emetic of ipecacuan, the extremities will become warm, the pulse will rise, and a healthy action of skin will ensue, which will continue for some time. Does the ipecacuan act beneficially by equalizing the circulation, or by bringing into action the preservative power of the body, or that power termed by Cullen the "*Vis medicatrix naturæ*?"

## S U R G E R Y. TUMOURS.

Dr. Henry Davies, an eminent accoucheur, of London, has published two cases of tumours, which had formed in the uterus, and descended into the vagina, in which the ergot of rye was administered, with some degree of success. The cases being similar, one will be sufficient to illustrate the peculiar action of this morbid production on the contractile power of the uterus.

Miss M. had been for a considerable time suffering from uterine disease. There was a tumour completely filling the vagina, which was removed by ligature. Shortly after the vagina was again filled with a similar tumour, portions of which came away in large flakey pieces, and in heart-shaped lumps, in appearance somewhat resembling the small brain (cerebellum). In order to induce the uterus to expel the whole into the vagina, it was agreed, in consultation with Dr. Merriman, to give the ergot of rye. The annexed is the report of its effects, as given by Mr. Langley, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who superintended the case.

"I gave last night an aperient medicine, which had the effect of twice opening the bowels. Being called out to a labour, early this morning, I was prevented giving the ergot of rye till one o'clock p. m. I divided one drachm, finely powdered, into three equal parts, one of which I gave, mixed in treacle. At twenty minutes after one, I was informed, that the stomach had discharged its contents, and of course I conjectured, the principal portion of the dose. I now gave a saline effervescent draught, with a view of quieting the stomach. In half an hour another dose of the ergot of rye was given, which was retained.

"I must here observe, that in the short space of fifteen or twenty minutes from the period of exhibiting the first dose, pains, assuming the character of uterine contraction, came on, and have been increasing in violence, with all the concomitants of bearing down, frequent inclination to pass the urine and feces, &c., ever since; and now (nine o'clock) the third dose has been given. The pulse was 120 when I gave her the first dose, the same at five o'clock, and the same now. I have examined, and do not find any material difference in the situation of the tumour; but evidently perceive it pressing downwards into the vagina during the pains, of which there is very little intermission. Her mother gave the third dose during my absence, otherwise I should have hesitated, as the pain is now very poignant.

"A little before one o'clock in the morning, during a very severe bearing down pain, and while the patient was sitting over hot water, a large lump came away. The pains continued throughout the night, but have remitted this morning at nine o'clock.

"No more of the ergot of rye was exhibited for a day or two, when a similar effect was produced by it, and more of the tumour came down. Notwithstanding this, the tumour increased more rapidly in proportion as the parts were removed; the use of the ergot of rye therefore was laid aside."

Dr. Davies notices the following indications for the exhibition of this article. The ergot of rye ought never to be given where there is any natural defect, either in the pelvis or soft parts, capable of producing a powerful obstacle to the expulsion of the child. Neither in those cases where the neck of the uterus is hard, swollen, or painful; in short, where there is rigidity of the parts: and, generally, where the abstraction of blood is indicated, this medicine is improper. The labour should have made some progress; the parts should be well lubricated with the natural mucus; the uterine orifice fully dilated, and all the soft parts prepared for delivery. The practitioner should, by careful examination, &c. be assured, that delivery is retarded only by defective action of the womb. The present action should be natural, and the child so situated, that delivery can be effected by the efforts of the uterus.

If the patient be very much fatigued and feeble, it should not be given till she is refreshed and recruited, by suitable nourishment or medicine, lest the exertion it occasions should be more than she can bear.

The ergot of rye may be given in tincture, infusion, or finely powdered; in either form its effects are similar: the powder, perhaps, acts more speedily; but where there is a disposition to sickness, the tincture agrees best with the stomach. It would appear to be more effective when given in a large dose at once, than in small doses frequently repeated; which rather tend to fatigue the uterus unnecessarily. It has been suggested by Dr. Begeschi, in the *Annali Universali*, that the dose should be varied according to the strength and constitution of the patient; her temperament, age, and state of health at the time; whether she be more or less fatigued, and whether the membranes be whole or ruptured. The dose of the tincture is from one to two

tea-spoonful in a table-spoonful of water. From the peculiar action of this production on the contractile power of the uterus, it merits a trial in cases of muscular relaxation and palsy.

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### SMALL-POX.

In a memoir, lately read to the Royal Academy of Medicine, a M. Velpeau stated, that if the heads of the pustules of small-pox are touched with a caustic the second day of their appearance, they will cease to advance, and rapidly disappear without leaving any mark. He applied a solution of the lunar caustic, by means of the sharp end of a probe, with which he broke the cuticle. A M. Dumeril observed, that the practice was not new, and that he had long employed the solid nitrate of silver for the purpose.

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### ITCH.

A Dr. Maury has made several experiments at the hospital of Saint Louis, with the view to ascertain the advantages of the different modes of treatment of Itch, which are in common use; the results of which have convinced him that the following remedies are most worthy the notice of practitioners.

1st. *The Sulphureous Pomatum*, recommended by M. Helmerick, composed of

Sublimed Sulphur, 4 ounces;  
Salt of Wormwood, 2 ounces;  
Hogslard, 1 pound; to be well mixed.

Two frictions with this Ointment, daily (using two ounces each time), cured the disease in twelve days. The Doctor found it to soil the linen, "from the excess of fat over the alcali." It has a strong sulphureous smell, but does not unpleasantly irritate the skin.

2d. *The Camphorated Liniment*, introduced by M. Vardy, made by dissolving two drachms of Camphor in two ounces of Almond or Olive Oil. This composition cured the diseased in about a fortnight. The smell is not unpleasant, but it discoloured the linen. It effected a cure without irritating the skin, and the first application considerably allayed the itching. The Doctor recommends it to private families.

3d. *The Volatile Camphor Liniment* of M. Fournier, made by adding two drachms of the strong liquor of Ammonia to the preceding composition of M. Vardy. Of this Liniment he speaks very favourably. It succeeded in curing the disease in about twelve days.

4th. *The Itch Pomatum* of M. Melier, the composition of which is  
Subcarbonate of Soda, 2 ounces;  
Water, 1 ounce;  
Olive Oil, 4 ounces;  
Flowers of Sulphur, 4 ounces.

To the solution of the supercarbonate of soda, well blended with the oil, add the sulphur gradually (in a mortar) continuing to rub them together. This remedy applied twice a day, succeeded in effecting a cure in about fourteen days. The oil and subcarbonate of soda forming

a soap, the Doctor states it does not stain the linen, and cures the disease without irritating the skin.

5th. *The Sulphureous Bath*, in which four ounces of the Sulphuret of Potass were dissolved (about thirty gallons of water), used once a day, cured the disease in about eighteen days.

6th. *Sulphureous Fumigation*, the daily use of which Dr. Gales found to cure the disease in about three days, and Mr. Green, in this country, in four days, required twenty-two days at the hospital of St. Louis, under the direction of Dr. Maury, to effect a cure. This, we conceive, is either an error, or the remedy was *improperly* applied; because ample experience has satisfied us that it is the most efficacious mode of applying sulphur in cases of Itch, having often found it to effect a cure in three days, after the sulphur, ointments, and lotions had failed.

Of all the *safe* applications, the following is the most efficacious, excepting sulphureous fumigation.

Take of Decoction of White Hellebore Root, six ounces;

Sulphuret of Potass, two drachms;

Essence of Lavender, two drachms—Mix.

With this lotion the parts affected should be well washed, by means of a little tow, so as to break the cuticle which covers the heads of the eruptions.

## HOSPITAL SURGERY.

About thirty-five years since, the practice of the London hospitals was so highly esteemed for science and judgment by surgeons in general, that even the surgeons of the provincial hospitals considered it their duty to visit them once a year, and they generally admitted that they returned with an addition to their stock of practical knowledge. Alas! alas! what a falling off have we lately witnessed in the London hospitals. The country hospitals, in consequence of their not being neglected by the governors, are at this time better schools for surgery than the London ones. In these days, it is common to hear of men in apparent health, at the time the accidents occurred, losing their lives in the London hospitals, by a simple wound, or a fractured limb. In the investigations of *impartial* juries into the causes of such deaths, much came out to merit censure, even in the *surgical* treatment; but on subsequent inquiry by the governors themselves, no error of judgment, or *neglect of duty*, in the attending surgeons, was discovered; and we confess, much ingenuity was evinced in the *friendly* examinations, by certain medical gentlemen, which, on the minds of the governors, ignorant of surgery, had the desired effect. To one man, a simple wound on the knee terminated fatally: adhesive plaster, and a roller were applied immediately after his admission. Now, was it a proper wound for the adhesive plaster treatment? For a simple or clean incised wound (we mean by "clean," an incised wound without contusion), it is the common, and no doubt proper treatment, to approximate the sides, and keep them in that state by plaster and bandage; but, after four or five days, it is common to remove them, the

plaster itself, in that time, being apt to excite irritation: but when a patient complains of the injured part being very painful, with a sense of pulsation and increased heat, was it right to keep it bound up? As a proof that the bandage and plaster practice could not have been the cause of the serious mischief which ensued, it was emphatically observed by one surgeon, the swelling took place *above* the roller! An application of a roller, by retarding the return of blood from the parts below it, will occasion edematous swelling, or distension of the veins; but the *inflammatory* swelling *above* the roller could only be attributed to the irritation the plaster and bandage had kept up for so many days. The Leech evidence shews, that the *house* surgeon (who had lately received the appointment, for the consideration of one hundred pounds), clearly shews that he was satisfied of the propriety of such an application. That a compound fracture of a lower extremity should prove fatal in a London hospital, is certainly not extraordinary, because we have never known one to do well in a London hospital, not even in St. George's, of the salubrious quality of the air of which, from its situation, the medical officers speak in the highest terms. At the time we held the appointment of domestic surgeon and apothecary to the Hereford infirmary, we did not lose a patient with a compound fracture of a lower extremity, and we are certain many of them were worse than those which have terminated fatally in the London hospitals.

Are we to attribute the different terminations to any difference in the air, or to any difference of treatment? The air, on chemical examinations, shews no difference. The patients in the Hereford infirmary were not only visited daily by the surgeons, but also dressed by them when it was deemed necessary. Is this the practice at the London hospitals? At one of the London hospitals a man lost his life in consequence of an artery of the arm being punctured on opening a vein!! Good God! how is such an accident to be justified even by a friendly enquiry or report? Was the operation performed by the surgeon of the hospital, or by an inexperienced pupil; or, as the reporter says, a *puppy*? A writer in a periodical work positively asserts that he was present when a pupil or puppy of a London hospital pushed his lancet three times at random into the neck of a patient, to open the jugular vein, and that too not within an inch or two of the situation of the vein!!! He states, that had not a young surgeon, acquainted with the situation of the vein, been present, he would have probably punctured the carotid artery. At another Hospital, a dislocation of the shoulder-joint was lately treated as a strain!!! The patient contended his shoulder was out, but the house-surgeon exclaimed, "pshaw! which should know best, you or the surgeon"!!! If the governors of the London hospitals were to attend the weekly boards, and house visitors were to discharge their duty in the same manner as the governors of the provincial infirmaries, we are confident we should not hear of such disgraceful cases of ignorance and neglect, if not brutality, which have lately occurred at some of them.

In the London hospitals, the house or resident surgeons absolutely purchase their appointments, for the purpose of obtaining experience, and the money (£100 for twelve months) does not go to the charity,

but is divided, as well as that paid by the other pupils, among the surgeons of the institution: and although at some hospitals some thousand pounds are divided annually, the surgeons have the effrontery to say, that their attendance is gratuitous, and therefore attendance once a week is as much as the governors can reasonably expect from them! At some of the London hospitals, if not at all, the surgeon sees his patients only once a week, and he does not even then condescend to apply a roller, splint, or a topical remedy; all these are left to his pupils!! He takes a hasty look at them, orders the remedy to be continued, although he has frequently no recollection of what he had prescribed, or is ignorant of what his pupil had thought proper to use in his absence. With such haste does he travel through the wards, that the pupils are not able to keep up with him, and we have seen some pupils entering a ward at the time the surgeon was marching out of it, but even if they had kept up with him, they would have been equally ignorant of the treatment of the case, except of what they might by chance see. This is termed, "*walking the London hospitals;*" and on the *walkers* leaving it, although they may not have attended once a fortnight, they will receive a certificate, signed by the surgeon, of *regular* attendance, on paying the porter five shillings! Is not this a most serious imposition on the public, inasmuch as the exhibition of such false testimonials is likely to induce patients to place confidence in a man who is unworthy of it?

At some hospitals, no surgeon is allowed to hold the appointment of surgeon to the institutions, who has not been a *private* pupil to one of the surgeons; and on this account a surgeon receives no less a premium than a thousand pounds with a private pupil; and hence men obtain the appointment whose intellects are below mediocrity, who are not capable of understanding the principles of surgery, and whose opinions are held in great contempt even by the pupils who had just left the shops of their masters in the country, to "*walk the hospitals.*" !!! As such bye laws militate against the progress of the science of surgery, and frustrate the great objects of these noble institutions, it behoves the governors to inquire by whom they were made, and to lose no time in abolishing them for ever. It is also their duty to the public to appoint a person to hold the situation of house surgeon, who is well acquainted with the science and practice of surgery; cases frequently occurring in which the prompt assistance of a skilful surgeon is necessary to save life. Instead of a house surgeon paying for the appointment, he should be handsomely paid out of the extravagant demands which are made on pupils by the mercenary surgeons. The residence of an *experienced* surgeon on the spot, would prevent the common, most inhuman practice, of examination of fractured limbs and patients after operations—a right to which every pupil considers himself entitled, in consequence of the sum they have paid to "*walk the hospitals.*" These disgraceful cruelties we have noticed in an early number. The fact is, in consequence of the neglect of the governors, the surgeons and physicians, who are only servants to the institutions, become the managing governors, and some of them absolutely retain their appointments till they are superannuated.

## MIDWIFERY.

## AFTER-PAINS, &amp;c. &amp;c.

Dr. Dewees has found camphor, in the dose of ten grains, administered immediately after delivery, to prevent after-pains, and to allay them more effectually than laudanum, over which it has the important advantage of not confining the power, or disordering the head. Some practitioners prefer the extract of henbane, in conjunction with an aperient; but this is too weak an anodyne to allay violent pain in a part so remote from the stomach, as the uterus. A celebrated accoucheur always orders the following draught to be given immediately after delivery, and to be repeated every four hours, which, he says, he has found not only to prevent after-pains, but also fever, and to produce pleasant and refreshing sleep:

Take of Compound Spirit of Sulphuric Ether, thirty drops;  
Laudanum, ten ditto;  
Camphorated Mixture, an ounce and a half.—Mix.

Dr. Dewees recommends the practitioner always to examine the uterus externally, before the removal of the after-birth, not only to ascertain its state, but whether another child remains in it. In case of flooding, the state of the uterus, which may be ascertained by external examination after delivery, will throw much light on the mode of treatment. If flabby, which is often the case, the free use of a stimulant and external friction, with the application of a bandage, to hasten the contraction, will be necessary. By attending to the simple, and certainly necessary, precaution, of external examination, many serious blunders may be prevented. In a former number, we have noticed a most extraordinary case of twins, which occurred in Worcester. A child was left in the uterus, and the practitioner, on discovering it, two days after the delivery of the first, very coolly observed, that he was fully aware of it, and that he thought it prudent, for a reason which he kept to himself, to postpone the delivery till the uterus began to contract on it. He had not examined the abdomen, and it is presumed, had he been aware of a child remaining in the womb, he would have given an intimation of it to the nurse. The child was born dead, and the following day the mother was no more!!!

Dr. Dewees notices a peculiar severe after-pain immediately following delivery, which he thinks has not been noticed by any writer on midwifery. This pain takes place at the bottom of the back-bone, the extremity of the sacrum, and the portion termed the coccyx. It is more intolerable than the severest labour-pain, and is, no doubt, occasioned by the pressure of the child's head on a morbidly tender nerve, or a nerve exposed to the pressure of the head by some formation of the bone. To overcome this agonizing pain, Dr. Dewees recommends the free use of laudanum and camphor internally and externally. Twenty drops of laudanum, in strong camphorated julep, may be taken, as soon as possible, and repeated, at short intervals, till the pain is subdued. Anodyne fomentations may also be used, and the sacrum may be rubbed with the following liniment:

Take of Volatile Camphorated Liniment,  
Laudanum, of each one ounce.—Mix.

Although this acute pain has not been noticed by the late Dr. Denman, Dr. Merriman, or any other writer on midwifery, we may venture to say, that there is scarcely an accoucheur who has practised midwifery in London six years, who has not met with a case of it. Dr. Dewees notices a circumstance "as remarkable, and worthy particular notice," and for which *he* cannot account; viz. "the almost uniform renewal of pain on the child being put to the breast." Now so common is this occurrence, that every old woman, who is in the habit of attending women during their confinement, is well acquainted with it; and every surgeon being aware of the sympathy that exists between the breast and the uterus, cannot be at a loss to account for it.

## THERAPEUTICS.

### THE VAPOUR BATH.

In our ninth volume, (page 968) we have given a short dissertation on the important offices of the skin, and on the effects of warm vapour on a variety of diseases, with a description of a Domestic Vapour Bath, invented by Captain Jekyll. In our eighth volume, (page 684) we have noticed a practical work on the simple and medicated Vapour Bath, by Mr. Green, a respectable Surgeon of London; and in our 6th volume, (page 65) we have given an analysis of a small useful treatise on warm bathing, by Sir Arthur Clarke, M. D., of Dublin. We have now to notice a new work, "on the Medicinal Properties and Operation of different Vapour Baths in a variety of Diseases," from the pen of the experienced and observant Dr. Gibney, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, senior Physician to the Sussex County Hospital, and to the General Sea Bathing Infirmary at Brighton. The Doctor's extensive private and hospital practice, in the most celebrated bathing place in Europe, has unquestionably afforded greater opportunities of ascertaining the comparative merits of the different baths, in a variety of diseases, than have fallen to the lot of any Physician in this country. The work is published as a continuation of his Observations on baths *in general*, which have been for some time before the public; a want of experience having then prevented him from entering on the present interesting part of the subject. The clear and unassuming manner in which the Doctor has detailed the results of his experience with the different vapour baths, lately introduced as auxiliaries to medicine in this country, in a great variety of diseases; and his valuable practical remarks on their respective merits, and on the circumstances which indicate, or contra-indicate their use, or render one preferable to the other, afford indubitable evidence that the real object of the author is to communicate useful information to his brethren, for the real good of mankind, and not to benefit himself. The latter remark we have been induced to make, because we have found all the "Practical" medical works, by Practitioners at a Watering Place, to be mere compilations, to attract the attention of a species of "fair game," (fan-

tastic hypochondriacs) denominated by an apothecary at Margate, "City Gulls."

About two years since, we were not a little amused by the modesty of a young sprig of the Borough School, in publishing a "practical" work on *operative* surgery, immediately on commencing practice, as a surgeon, in Cheltenham, who had never performed an operation on a living subject beyond that of opening a vein (we beg the *surgeon's* pardon, we mean *venesection*), extracting a tooth, lancing the gum of an infant, or cutting the corn of an old woman. Invalids who visit Brighton in search of health, have not only a choice of a great variety of baths, but also of *medical* advisers. Here there are practitioners of every denomination, from the proud legitimate pretender, whose advice is dear at any price—the compounders of "shallow draughts," to the impudent, illiterate itinerant, who professes, by a superior knowledge of medicine, instead of the *Latin* and *Greek* charms, to cure incurable diseases, and repair the worn-out constitutions of abandoned debauchees. Fortunately for the invalids whose cases require *immediate skilful* aid, there are three classes, who are as much on the alert to catch the "city gulls," as the fishermen are *flat* fish, or the excise officers smugglers. One *physician*, a *Doctor* Brayer, has been so fortunate as to catch, not only a fantastic "city gull," but also a fat goose, who possesses more of that philosophical metal, the *aurum portabile, or "filthy lucre,"* of Cobbet, that never fails to insure the attention of the physician, or call forth his peculiar arts, than brains; the lucky result of which were, an extra fee of two donkeys and a pill box, as a mark of gratitude and sense of his superior skill and judgment. The public papers were very properly (being professional) paragraphed, and with the same degree of propriety the case and the mode of treatment have not been allowed to transpire. The recovery of the gull is, however, deemed as extraordinary as any that has appeared in the list of extraordinary cures by the infallible Balm of Gilead, under the direction of that most experienced and skilful physician, Dr. Solomon, of Liverpool. For the last two hundred years it has been the policy of the College of Physicians to monopolise the *profitable* practice of physic, termed the *guinea* trade, in this kingdom. With this view, the "overflowing fellows" of the college have set up as legitimates at watering places, and to them only do the London Fellows recommend the patients they send to such places. Many of our readers, no doubt, recollect the *unconquerable*, and certainly *unladylike*, curiosity of an invalid, to whom a London physician gave a letter of introduction to a physician at Bath, which place she had determined to visit for the benefit of her health. The *lady*, being desirous to know his *real* opinion of her case, so far violated the laws of honour, as to break the seal, and with trembling hands to expose the contents to her staring eyes. The doctor, like a man of science, expressed himself laconically,—My dear friend—I send you a fine fat pigeon, whom I have well plucked, and who will bear more plucking. Pray make the most of her. Your's ever, — —.

From this letter, laconic as it was, the lady derived more benefit than from all the prescriptions her physician and sincere friend had

written for her, even with all the anxiety he had evinced for her recovery. Instead of going to be plucked, she returned to her family, and with the letter sent a ready plucked pigeon to the physician at Bath. There is also at Brighton a manufactory of the "most celebrated mineral waters of Germany," some of which invigorate, and others reduce, the vital powers. Epsom salt, Glauber's salt, and culinary salt, &c., dissolved (scientifically, of course), in water, tepid and cold, may here be obtained at a *very moderate* rate. One great advantage of this manufactory is, that from its proximity to the sea, invalids need not be afraid of having the dregs of a cask. The manufactured waters (we beg Dr. Struve's pardon), we mean the *scientific* solutions, may be compared to the Pierian spring.

"Where shallow draughts intoxicate her brain,  
And drinking *largely* sobers us again."

The waters are, no doubt, Mister John Bull, good emetics and good purgatives; and had Dr. Struve been a "fellow" of a certain *learned* society, they would, no doubt, be properly patronised. The diffusion of knowledge has proved fatal to the monopoly of the *guinea* trade, by a chartered body. At Bath, which, till within the last fifty years, was an appendage to Warwick Lane, a surgeon-apothecary takes the lead in the practice of physic, and the proud "fellows" and legitimate quacks, to their great mortification, are obliged to submit to the ascendancy of reason or common sense. This is indeed a triumph of science, highly creditable to the inhabitants of Bath. Dr. Gibney, during his long residence in Brighton, has supported the dignity of the physician. He has formed no connexion with apothecaries, surgeons, or chemists, for the sake of the "loaves and fishes," or for entrapping or plucking city, or any other gulls, or to exclude others from the practice. Like a man of real science and philanthropy, he pays proper attention to the cases of his patients; and his object is fully attained, in curing their maladies. For this long digression from the subject of vapour-bathing, we are aware Dr. Gibney will not thank us. From us he requires nothing in the shape of compliment; and in doing him justice, we are not actuated by any interested motive whatever.

Extensive experience has satisfied Dr. Gibney, that in the treatment of most diseases, the vapour-bath is a much more powerful agent than the common fluid-bath, *under any degree of heat*; and hence, says he, "to obviate the abuses which but too commonly arise from *temerity* and *inexperience*, more prudence and circumspection will be required in its administration, and, like all other means of an *active* character, used for the cure of disease, respecting which there may be doubt or difficulty, whatever facts a professional man has collected should be communicated to the public. In order that the practical information the doctor has collected, and the particular properties and nature of vapour, may be more clearly and distinctly understood, he has brought all the useful matter he could obtain from the best authors, modern and antient, of all countries, to promote his object.

Of all the modes of applying vapour, generally or locally, to the body, that termed *shampooing*, which was unquestionably first introduced into this country by Mr. Mahomed, is the most attractive in Brighton.

Indeed, so beneficially has this Indian practice proved, in cases of rheumatism, gout, indolent swellings, and stiffness of the joints, &c., that its reputation, as a remedy for such complaints, has so rapidly spread through this country, and indeed the continent, that invalids, from remote parts, are constantly resorting to it; and we have no hesitation in saying, the shampooing and vapour-baths of Mr. Mahomed attract more company to Brighton than any other establishment, instituted for the treatment of disease, or improvement of health; and the numerous instruments which cripplers, and other invalids, have been enabled to leave behind them, in consequence of the benefit they have received from shampooing, afford the best evidence that can be adduced of its efficacy. Dr. Gibney divides his work into eleven chapters, each of which contain so much valuable matter, and embrace so many subjects of general importance, that, to do the author and our readers justice, we find we must postpone our analysis of it till our next number, when we will give each chapter due consideration.

**MISCELLANEOUS.  
MECHANICAL PHILOSOPHY.**

BY SIR RICHARD PHILLIPS,

**Sir**—As the due understanding of the true mechanism of nature, and particularly of the relations of natural mechanism to animal organization, and the operations of continuity, cannot fail to be useful to the *science* of medicine, I invite the insertion, in your popular journal, of the following outline. Of course, on subjects so extended, I can, in such a paper, effect no more than the exhibition of some general principles, which will lead your readers to inquire further, and to think for themselves in the new direction thus attempted to be given to their thoughts.

I am, Sir, respectfully, yours, &c.

**To Dr. Reece, &c. &c.**

**R. PHILLIPS.**

**I.** We know only matter; and matter, in varied momenta, constitutes all the power with which we are acquainted; all power being as velocity and quantity of matter moved.

**II.** Matter is body in certain dimensions of space; and every space is occupied with its power, either as displayed in its connected continuity, or in its power in motion.

**III.** Power by collision and contact diffuses and equalizes itself: hence every moving atom moves till it has diffused its power, and brought all adjacent atoms into an equal degree of power.

**IV.** Matter and space are indefinitely divisible, and infinitely extended; and the depths of minute space are as far below human conceptions, as the heights in vastness are above them.

**V.** Power commences with atoms from points in the depths of space; and as these are infinite in number, and extend through infinite space, so power is infinite; while this co-extensive and equal power constitutes the soul of the universe, displayed through atoms, and simultaneously generates the universal energy of motion.

**VI.** The materials thus wrought upon are primary atoms, constituting the bases of the elements, and generating by their collisions, mixtures, unions, and accidents, all the systems of existence, phenomena, and organizations, of which we have any knowledge.

VII. Matter thus wrought upon, and in unceasing activity proceeding from within, as from the pores of solids and the interstices of gases, and directed into trains of union and combination by its own varied re-actions, must produce something; and that production is the regular universe—regular, because the actions and re-actions are equal—and fit and harmonious in regard to actual existences, because every thing not fit must cease, and would be newly compounded.

VIII. The collisions and re-actions of atoms, cause a diffusion of universal gas—their union produces concentrated masses and solidity—and the combination of both states the condition of fluidity. The conflict of all in a space full, which radiates or transmits their forces, produce planetary systems, governed by the law of radiation, which is inversely as the square of the distance.

IX. The force of every moved mass being directed towards, and from the centre of the mass, every part of a mass re-acts, or falls to the centre, as the necessary mechanical result of common forces acting on the masses; and the orbicular and rotatory motions of the earth are, therefore, the competent causes of the weight of its parts, and of every other similar mass.

X. The single rotation of any mass, causes the parts at the periphery to pursue right line courses in tangents; and the projection of an heterogeneous mass, causes the whole to form a train, in which the dense bodies precede, and the rare ones follow; but when both motions are combined, as in the earth, and the motion of projection is sixty-eight times greater than the maximum of the motion of rotation, the projection neutralizes the tendency to fly off in a tangent, and the rotation licks up the train of rare bodies, and causes the whole to assume the actual conditions of a planet, with a dense nucleus, a rare surface, and a rarer atmosphere.

XI. The phenomena of the fall of dense bodies to the centre of the earth, arise, therefore, in each planet, from causes altogether local, which justify no assumed analogy in regard to any pretended attraction between the earth and moon, and sun or planets, and destroy the system of universal gravitation, projectile force, and vacuum in space, which has so long been taught.

XII. A medium of gas expands through all space, because the aerial gas would rush to fill a vacuum, because it is the competent cause of the propagation of forces from one celestial body to another according to the ascertained law of radiation, because the comets and planets prove the presence of supporters of combustion, and because gas also is necessary to the propagation of light.

XIII. The motion of a central mass, like the sun, in the medium, or gas of space, produces motions, or vortices, of that medium, competent to carry round the planets in orbits, with forces radiating in the medium, or inversely, as the squares of the distances, which force, being greater on the near sides of the planets than on their remote sides, simultaneously turns them on their axes.

XIV. Each planet also generates a local vortex, competent to revolve satellites around itself; and the re-action of the satellites produces an orbit of the primary round the common fulcrum of their momenta; both bodies being, with respect to the sun, a common system, and their fulcrum the focus of the solar forces, and the common orbit the line generated by their fulcrum, as in the earth and moon.

XV. These actions and re-actions specially and unequally affect the fluid parts, which by their mobility accommodate themselves to the peculiar motions around the fulcrum, and hence oscillations of the seas take place, which, if intercepted by land, move forward and backward as often as the

time and their breadth permit, and, in fact, produce two tides in every revolution opposite the fulcrum.

XVI. The medium of space is affected by the sun in the plane of its own motions; and the axis of the sun being inclined seven and a half degrees, this plane is double the inclination, and hence the zodiac, or space of the planets, is about that width. The re-actions of the planetary masses in this plane, are as their quantities of matter; and hence their several orbits: and if their re-actions were equal, their orbits would be circular; but they are elliptical, therefore unequal, and greatest when nearest, or in perihelion, and least when farthest off, or in aphelion.

XVII. The parts competent to effect these varied re-actions, are the moving and adjusting waters; and accordingly, in the earth we find, that the perihelion takes place when the waters of the Southern Ocean are directly opposed to the solar impulses, and the aphelion when the land of the Northern Hemisphere is so opposed. But as the line of apsides, or the perihelion and aphelion points, makes a revolution of the ecliptic in 20,900 years, so, as the re-acting waters and land must correspond with the declination of those points, the seas pass from one hemisphere to another in that period, and the masses of land and water are interchanged.

XVIII. The terrestrial forces, or motions, which cause the tendency of its parts to the centre, act in like manner on the medium of space, and direct it within certain limits towards the centre, with a force called atmospheric weight; which at the same time causes a local concentration of the gas near the surface, and a corresponding re-action from the surface, which, in regard to the air itself, constitutes an elasticity equal to its weight.

XIX. Whenever the motions of the atoms within fluids or solids become too great for the cohesion of their fitting surfaces, they separate, evaporate, and radiate, with varieties of phenomena, which we call heat: and this phenomenon always arises when great motions are transferred, either by percussion, friction, or the fixation of any volume of atoms previously in motion.

XX. Atoms, which thus radiate from excited bodies, move into adjacent spaces, already filled with atoms; and though they are impelled in right lines, yet, by impinging, when radiated, against the atoms already in the space, they are by them deflected continually, and by successive deflections are turned into orbits, composed of an indefinite number of tangents, or chords, ultimately to be regarded as circular.

XXI. The size of these orbits of course depends on the velocity or excitement of the radiated atoms, and is inversely as the density of the atoms among which the radiation is made; but as the one is active, and the other passive, the newly excited atoms propel the others from the space, and fill it with their power, each atom deflecting the others, and creating altogether a volume of gas.

XXII. The gas thus generated in rounded volumes, by atoms excited and radiated, deflected and turned into circular orbits in momenta, is aqueous, if produced by water; or carbonaceous, if evolved from coal, &c.; or oxygenous, if raised from any oxyde; or hydrogenous, or nitrous, &c., as evolved from suitable substances. In every case it consists of atoms in momenta, localized in action by circular orbits, and restrained by the re-action of surrounding bodies, or gases.

XXIII. Of course the partial, or total, refixation, is a consequence of any part of the motion being transferred; and this transfer to other bodies confers on them the phenomena of increased motion, or heat; and as we live within an atmosphere consisting of atoms in gaseous momenta, so power is every where present within the atmosphere, for all purposes of heat-making, for organic appropriation by vegetable or animal respiration, and for all the elaborations of nature in every kind of phenomena.

XXIV. In a word, all local phenomena, and all the changes in the relations and constitutions of bodies, are caused by a circle of these motions, first condensed and transferred, and then re-transferred by evaporation or collision, the atoms affected being of divers forms and densities, and thereby capable of varying the results, or moving among each other with certain degrees of facility or obstruction, which produces definite laws of union or separation, within the same space.

XXV. Such mutual dependancy of correlative existence produces, and is accompanied by, similar laws of correlative motion, or of union or separation, with given force, in any bounded space; hence the separation of the elementary atoms of oxygen, and its antagonist principles, when the sides of a plate of air, or any electric, are excited by brisk motions, or when varied re-actions are presented to an intervening fluid, by plates of different metals, or when differences of heat, or atomic motion, are presented by two sides to intervening fluids, or gases.

XXVI. The force with which the re-union is sought by the two sides, thus separated by suitable excitement of force, is displayed and measured by light bodies placed within the space—and hence electric attraction and repulsion: while the sudden and concentrated re-union of the entire disturbed surfaces, through any small point, produces all those phenomena of light and heat, called electricity, or galvanism, but ascribed by mistake to fluids, *sui generis*.

XXVII. Every exhibition of electrical phenomena arises from the atoms of the electric alone, being susceptible of different excitements, and the electric exhausts or receives the whole of the excitement within itself; non-electrics, or conductors, serving merely to bound the action and re-action; being such, because insusceptible, or insensible, of the excitement; and expanding the action, by affording a bound to the electric plate, just as a leaden pipe bounds water which spreads through it.

XXVIII. A magnet is a natural galvanic combination, which affects the adjoining stratum of air, or the elementary bases of air, and, like a conductor in electricity, is itself non-magnetic and unaffected, and on that account is a test of the action, and not at once a cause and a test. It disturbs a circumjacent plate, or sphere, of space, by its different re-actions at its mere surface, serving like a conductor, as a simple boundary of the external action, not as its receivable, or as its emanating cause.

XXIX. Sound and light are different affections of the medium of space, the one massive, the other atomic—or the one acting by diffused vibrations, and the other by atomic propulsion of atoms, in their extended trains, as they fill all space. Identical atoms travel no more in light than in sound; but light is infinitely quicker than sound, because each atom has to move only through an infinitesimal of space, and the motion at the point of excitement is propagated from that point, almost like a solid rod, while in sound it is the action of the mass, resisted by the mass.

XXX. As the medium affected by the atomic excitements of light, and the massive vibrations of sound, is the very same, and consists of various gases compounded, or mingled, so mingled results of tone and colour arise from the same degrees of excitements, or peculiar results from different excitements; preponderating tones in sound being produced by affections of appropriate atoms in the mass; and hence we hear simultaneous tones, and enjoy their coincident harmony: and colours being likewise affections of different atoms, hence the prismatic spectrum is a chemical test of the gaseous elements, and the proportions of the ocular and the diatonic scales are alike, while they agree with the known proportions of the gaseous elements determined by the coarse tests of chemistry.

XXXI. The energy and heat of animals is derived from the fixation

and combination of oxygenous gas by respiration, and the muscular strength from the power, thus derived, of making a continuous lever to act against the ground; but the fixation of oxygen in one part of the system is like oxygen accumulated on a galvanic or electric plate, and correlative action is disturbed; while the nitrogen of the atmosphere forms a plate of antagonist power on the skin, and a galvanic action takes place: the nitrogen thus entering the system, changing the colour of the blood, and action and reaction continuing, while the lungs continue to change the oxygen.

XXXIII. The continued fixation of the gases within the system, creates an acceleration of their action and excitement, to which the aqueous or separable parts yield, and a balance is thus kept up between the accumulating and dispersing actions; the fixation of more gas by exercise or exertion, causes greater evaporation; and evaporation checked while excitement is accelerated, occasions the mechanical disease called fever, the chemical phenomena of which is determined by the materials affected. In like manner, compounds of hydrogen increase the galvanic action between the surface to which they are applied; and the lungs or baths impregnated with nitre, increase the energy of the action between the skin and the lungs, and baths impregnated with acids diminish the action, by neutralizing the nitrous action at the skin.

XXXIII. The principle of an attractive force of any kind or degree is absurd, because every motion is in the direction of the impelling force, and when bodies go together, their direction of motion is from parts where neither of them are; and, therefore, the cause of the motion of one, cannot be in the other. In like manner the principle of repulsive force, of any kind whatsoever, is absurd, because, when bodies recede, each is moving with force in a contrary direction to that of the other, and bodies cannot be acting in force in opposite directions, and also where neither of them are. Of the existence of caloric, there never existed any proof but in the palpable motions of the atoms of the bodies, and in the absurdities of nomenclature; yet the principles and alleged operations of attraction, repulsion, and caloric, are the fundamental bases of all modern science.

XXXIV. Every phenomenon of attraction, repulsion, and caloric, may be explained and illustrated on strict mechanical principles, and they are in every case mere mechanical affections, resulting from causes easily understood. The fall of bodies to the earth is the effect of its own motions; the tides are the swing of the waters caused by the orbit round the fulcrum of the earth and moon; the attractions of electricity, &c. &c. have been explained; all the attractions called capillary, of mountains, lead-balls, and floating bodies, are merely imperfect barometrical action, or intercepted pressure; and the chemical affinities arise from this cause, from correlative action, and from fitting and unfitting forms. The *modus operandi* being thus explained, we are enabled to reason, *a priori*, from cause to effect, extending the boundaries of knowledge, and perfecting its influence; while, by preserving our cabalistic terms, and adopting unknown quantities as known into the equations of our reasoning, we wander from truth, involve science in absurdity, and render nature an inextricable labyrinth.

Brighton, August 3, 1825.

#### EXTINCTION OF FIRE IN A CHIMNEY, OR IGNITED SOOT.

The Council of Health report, that a pound of the flowers of sulphur thrown on the fire, in the grate, when the soot of the chimney is in flames, will so completely deprive the ascending air of oxygen, as to extinguish it in a few minutes.

A more effectual method is to prevent any air from ascending, by placing a wet cloth before the fire-place, and blocking up the top of the chimney.

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 118.

To OCTOBER 1, 1825.

VOL. X.

## PHYSIC.

### OF THE STAGES OF HUMAN LIFE.

IN the treatment of disease, acute or chronic, the age of the patient is to be taken into consideration, as well as his peculiarities, temperament, customs and habits. The ages or stages of life have been differently divided by physicians and lawyers. The ancient Greek philosophers marked three grand and obvious divisions, viz.—1st. the *stage of growth*, including infancy, and second infancy, or boyhood; 2d. of *adolescence*, embracing youth and manhood; and 3d. of *decline*, which embraces old age and decrepitude.

During the first stage, acute or inflammatory disease advances rapidly, and chronic disease, from which it is nearly exempt, requires as prompt or decisive practice to check its progress, or cure it, as an acute disease in the last division. In the second division, diseases exhibit their true characteristic symptoms; and at this period, an account of the symptoms of a disease should be taken. In the last stage, acute disease often terminates fatally, in consequence of the want of a power to support the body during its progress; and here uncontrolled inflammation, instead of advancing to suppuration, as in the first and second stages, frequently terminates in mortification; and when suppuration takes place, it is often unhealthy, and attended with sloughing of the surrounding cellular substance, under the debilitating effects of which, an aged or impaired constitution often rapidly sinks. Before we enter on this subject, which, in a philosophical or medical point of view, is highly interesting and important, it will be proper to notice a state of body which takes place towards the conclusion of the period termed old age; or during the period denominated advanced age, or decrepitude, on account of its belonging, in a medical view, to the article we have given in our 116th Number, on the different temperaments of the human body. The general decaying process, very significantly termed "a breaking up of the constitution," has been described by Sir Henry Halford, in the 4th Vol. of the Medical Transactions, as a *disease* discovered by himself, under the name of

#### *Climacteric Disease.*

The emaciation common to old age has been noticed by the antients and moderns as a variety of general atrophy. Dr. Good notices the climacteric disease, in compliment to the discoverer, under the head of "Marasmus climactericus;" and notwithstanding he gives it the English name of "decay of nature," he states, that Sir Henry Halford's *elegant and perspicuous* description has convinced him that it is sufficiently distinct and striking for a *separate species of disease!!* He however acknowledges, that, in *several* of its features, it bears a strong resemblance to the Marasmus, or atrophy, of old age, described by Cullen and other writers.

From it, he thinks, it differs essentially in the instances which it affords of a *complete* rally and recovery; "and if," says he, "the train of reasoning employed (by Sir Henry Halford and himself) in developing its *physiology*, be correct, it will be found to differ also in its *chief seat and proximate cause.*" !!! This being a subject of great interest, not only to those who are approaching the grand climacteric of life; but even to those who are enjoying the summer period, who hope to attain it, we shall particularly notice the opinions of Sir Henry Halford and Dr. Good, respecting it. It does not appear that the ordinary duration of the life of man has undergone any change since the Mosaic age, in which, as in the present day, it varied from three-score and ten to four-score years. In passing through this term, however, we meet with particular epochs at which the body is peculiarly affected, and undergoes considerable alteration. These epochs the Greek physiologist contemplated as five; and from the word *climax*, which signifies a ladder, denominated them *climacterics*. They begin with the seventh year, which forms the first climacteric; and are afterwards regulated by multiplication of the figures three, seven, and nine, into each other; as the twenty-first (three times seven), the forty-ninth (seven times seven), the sixty-third (nine times seven), and the eighty-first (nine times nine). As time acts differently on different constitutions, and its decaying or impairing influence being accelerated or retarded by modes of living, such division is of little, if any, practical utility in medicine, however pleasing it may be to philosophical or contemplative minds. The two last were called grand climacterics, as being those which constitute the extent of the life of man, and during which little is to be accomplished in this world, but a preparation for another.

On the changes which take place in the constitution during the three first periods of life, and their modifying influence on diseases, we purpose making some remarks in our next number; but as those which occur about the fourth, or the latter end of the fourth, or commencement of the fifth, are somewhat connected with the subject of the present article, we shall briefly notice them. These changes are of two distinct and opposite kinds.

We sometimes find the system, at this period, rapidly exhibiting a very extraordinary renovation of powers; individuals who have been deaf for twenty years suddenly recovering the sense of hearing; others as abruptly recovering the sense of vision, so as to lay aside their spectacles, which had been in habitual employment for many years; and others, reproducing a smaller or larger number of teeth, to supply vacuities progressively produced in earlier life. That the hair should evince a similar regeneration, of which many instances are on record, is perhaps less surprising, since this has been known to grow, and to change its colour, after death. These singularities, and especially the renewal of the sight and hearing, or of the sight and teeth, have occurred simultaneously. And hence Glanville spoke correctly when he affirmed that "the restoration of grey hairs to juvenility, and renewing exhausted marrow, may be effected without a miracle, or, as we would say, without the interposition of

the "highly-flavoured Prince Hohenlohe," or papal bigotry and superstition.

On the other hand, instead of a renovation of powers at the period before us, we sometimes perceive as sudden and extraordinary a decline. It is not uncommon for a person, apparently in good health, without any perceptible cause, rapidly to become emaciated, or suddenly to fall into a general decay—his strength, spirits, appetite, and sleep, failing equally, in many instances, when the brain, and all the viscera of the chest and belly are equally affected. This is the real fact; and no medical power, or human wisdom or vigilance, can sometimes check its progress. It is, however, frequently a state of system, in which medical aid and friendly attention may be of essential service; and upon an application of which, the vital or conservative powers are, as in a real disease of debility, invigorated, and the general strength restored, the muscular system becoming firmer and fuller, the complexion more healthy, the lips redder, and the eyes more animated; and this state of convalescence will sometimes continue to advance, till the extraordinary renovations of lost powers, or even lost organs, to which we have above alluded, take place. This favourable change occurs when the brain and nervous system will admit of being invigorated, and when the stomach, and the other important organs, and also the arteries, are free from organic disease. In such case, the decline may be considered in the light of malady, although, in fact, it is a natural or constitutional decay. It is on this account that Sir Henry Halford, in reference to the period in which the debility occurs, has denominated it the "*climacteric disease*." The emaciation of old age is attributed to a want of nourishment. It is said, the cause is chiefly seated in the stomach and duodenum; and the lacteals becoming more or less obliterated, the body is almost entirely supported by the fat deposited in the cellular substance throughout the system. In the climacteric disease, described by Sir Henry Halford, the reverse of all this is said to take place. The patient falls away in flesh and strength *before* he complains of any loss of appetite, or has any symptoms of indigestion; which Sir Henry thinks takes place afterwards by sympathy. He also supposes that the mesentery and lacteals are not paralysed and obliterated, as in the atrophy of old age, is evident, from the renovation of power, and reproduction of bulk, in which the supposed disease sometimes terminates.

In watching carefully the effects of decay, when totally unconnected with any apparent cause, mental or bodily, we shall often perceive that it creeps on so gradually and insensibly that the patient himself is hardly aware of its commencement. "He perceives," says Sir Henry Halford, "that he is tired sooner than usual, and that he is thinner than he was; but yet he has nothing *materially* to complain of:" (surely, *emaciation* is a *material* complaint.) "In progress of time," observes Sir Henry, "his appetite becomes seriously impaired; his nights are sleepless; or if he gets sleep, he is not refreshed by it. His face becomes visibly emaciated, or perhaps acquires a bloated look. His tongue is whitish, and he suspects that he has fever. If he ask advice, his pulse is

found quicker than it should be; and he acknowledges that he has felt pains in his head and chest; and that his legs are disposed to swell; yet there is no deficiency in the quantity of his urine, nor any other sensible failure in the action of the viscera of the belly, except that the bowels are more sluggish than they used to be. Sometimes he feels pains shooting over different parts of the body, conceived to be rheumatic, but without the proper character of this disease; and sometimes the head-ache is accompanied by giddiness. Towards the close of the disease, when it terminates fatally, the stomach seems to lose all its powers; the frame becomes more and more emaciated; the cellular membrane in the lower limbs is laden with serum; there is an insurmountable restlessness by day, and a total want of sleep by night; the mind grows torpid and indifferent to what formerly interested it, and the patient sinks at last; seeming rather to cease to live, than to die of a mortal distemper."

Such is the ordinary course of this supposed disorder in its simplest form, when it proves fatal, and the powers of the constitution are incapable of coping with its influence. Yet it is seldom that we can have an opportunity of observing it in this simple form, and never, perhaps, but in a patient, whose previous life has been entirely healthy, and whose mind is unruffled by anxiety. For if this complaint, whatever be its cause, should shew itself in a person, who is already a prey to grief or care, or mental distress of any kind, or in whom some one or more of the larger and more important organs of the body, as the brain, the lungs, the heart or stomach, has been weakened or otherwise injured by accident or irregularity, or is influenced by a gouty or other morbid condition, the symptoms will assume a mixed character; and the state of constitution, termed the climacteric disease, be greatly aggravated. It is these accidents indeed, that for the most part constitute the exciting cause, as well as the most fearful auxiliary of the supposed malady; for, without such, it is highly probable the system would remain stationary; and that many a patient, who falls a sacrifice to it, would be enabled to glide quietly through the sequestered vale of age to the remotest limit of natural life, and at length quit the scene around him without any violent struggle or protracted suffering, with a calmness or resignation, sometimes, though rarely attained, but ardently desired, by all.

This supposed disease, according to the experience of Sir Henry Halford and others, is less common to women than to men, for which no practitioner can be at a loss for a reason, who considers the greater exposure of the latter than of the former, to those contingencies which so frequently become occasional causes or auxiliaries, and which, at the period to which we alluded, strike deeper, and produce much more lasting impressions than before time has commenced its dilapidating operation on the fabric.

There are some events, however, observes Dr. Good, that apply equally to both sexes, and which frequently tend to accelerate this state of constitution, viz. the loss of a long-tried and confidential friend; of a beloved, or only child; or of a wife or husband assimi-

lated to each other in habits, disposition, general views, and sentiments, by an intercourse of perhaps thirty or forty years standing. In some instances the last event operates very rapidly. Dr. Good notices a case of a clergyman, between fifty and sixty years of age, the father of ten children, who were all dependant upon him, and whose benefice would have enabled him, in all probability, to provide for them respectably, had he lived, but who was so deeply affected by the loss of his wife in childbed, that he followed her to the grave in less than three months.

The same effect is as clearly and decidedly produced, though with a much tardier step, unaccompanied with any sudden shock. A lady, in Edgeware-road, died consumptive, at the age of fifty-four. Her husband, though not a man of acute sensibility, had attentively nursed her through the whole of her lingering illness, and had lived happily with her from an early period of life. Being aware of her approaching end, he prepared for it, and, in a few weeks after her decease, seemed to have recovered his usual serenity of mind. Not long afterward he applied for medical advice on his own account. He was dispirited, and evidently losing flesh; his appetite was diminishing, and his nights restless, with little fever, and altogether without any manifest local disorder. The emaciation, with its accompanying evils, nevertheless increased, the general disease became confirmed, and, in about five months, he fell a sacrifice to debility.

Occasionally, during the period of old age, a very trivial accidental excitement proves sufficient to bring on the condition, termed by Sir Henry, the climacteric disease. "I have known," says Sir Henry, "an act of intemperance, where intemperance was not habitual, the first apparent cause of it. A fall, which did not appear of consequence at the moment, and which would not have been so at any other time, has sometimes jarred the frame into this disordered action. A marriage contracted late in life, has also afforded the first occasion to this change."

It has, in some instances rapidly followed a cutaneous eruption, of which Dr. Good thinks the following case affords a very striking example, and shows, in the clearest colours, the general want of tone, which, under the decaying influence of time, prevails throughout the system.

In November, 1816, Mr. James Cobb, Secretary to the East India Company, then in his sixty-first year, and blessed with one of the firmest and most vigorous constitutions that the doctor ever knew, was affected with erysipelatous inflammation of the face. It was troublesome, and for *nearly a fortnight*, accompanied by a slight fever, and a *good deal* of irritation. It subsided at length, but left a degree of debility, which called for a change of air, and relaxation from public duty. The patient, by the doctor's advice, made a short excursion to France, and returned much improved, but evidently not quite restored to *all* the strength and elasticity he formerly enjoyed. Insensibly, and without any ostensible cause, he became emaciated, walked from Russel-square to the East-India House, with less freedom than usual, and found his carriage a relief

to him in returning home. His appetite diminished, his nights were less quiet, and his pulse a little quickened. At one time he complained of great thirst, and voided an unusual quantity of urine, so as to excite some apprehension of diabetes. The urine, however, was not sweet, and both these symptoms rapidly disappeared under the medical treatment laid down for him. The general waste and debility, however, continued to increase, his natural cheerfulness began to flag occasionally, and exertion was weariness. At this period an inflammation commenced suddenly on the left side of the scrotum, which soon produced a tumour somewhat larger than a goose's egg, and suppurated very kindly. Sir Gilbert Blane, and Sir Walter Farquhar, met in consultation with Dr. Good. Even among these great physicians, it was a doubtful question what would be the result of this abscess. One thought it might be an effort of nature to *re-invigorate* the system by a critical excitement (*re-vigoration* of the system of an old man by an abscess !!) and in this view of the case, says Dr. Good, there was *reason* for congratulation. But it was at the same time obvious, says he, that if the strength of the system should not be found equal to this new source of exhaustion, and could not be stimulated to meet it, the abscess might prove highly unfavourable. The abscess was opened, and about a quarter of a pint of well-formed pus discharged, but the state of system, or unfavourable symptoms, remained without alteration, and the "cavity of the abscess seemed rather disposed to run into a *sinus* along the perineum, than to fill up : (! !) The opening was enlarged, but no advantage followed : (!) it was evident," observes the doctor, "there was too little vigour in the system to excite *healthy* action." The abscess was alternately stimulated with *incisions* of myrrh, a *solution* of nitrate of silver, and red precipitate; but the surface continued glassy, with a display of pale and flabby granulations, that vanished soon after they made their appearance. (! !) Mr. Chine was now united in consultation (better late than never), who concurred in opinion that the wound was of subordinate importance, and would follow the fortune of the general frame. The issue was still doubtful, for the constitution resisted pertinaciously, though upon the whole, the disorder was gaining ground. Yet even at this time, there was not a single organ that gave indication of the slightest structural disease. The lungs were perfectly sound and unaffected; the heart without palpitation; the mind in the fullest possession of all its powers; the head at all times free from pain or stupor, even after **VERY LARGE doses of opium, and other narcotics** : (! ! !) the bile (ah, the bile !!) was duly secreted; the urine in sufficient abundance, and the bladder capable of retaining it without inconvenience through the whole night. The pulse, however, was quick, the stomach fastidious, and the bowels irregular, sometimes costive, and at others suddenly attacked with a diarrhoea that required instant and active attention, to prevent a fatal delirium. The wound continued on a balance: there was energy enough to prevent gangrene, but too little for incarnation (!) Dr. Good supposes that "a clearer example of the climacteric disease of Sir Henry Halford, cannot be wished for or conceived." !!! Unfortunately, says he, it

progress, though retarded (not accelerated, of course!) by the arms of medicine, was retarded alone! One of the last recommendations was a removal into the country: but the patient was become so debilitated and infirm, that this was found a work of some difficulty, and required contrivance. (Better late than never, exclaimed poor Cobb.) The Duke of Sussex, however, being kind enough to accommodate the patient with the use of "his easy and convenient sofa-carriage for as long a period as HE might choose," he proceeded without much fatigue, to a house provided for him on the borders of Windsor Forest. The distance was now become too considerable for his friend, Dr. Good, to attend him *statedly*, and therefore he visited him but once or twice afterwards. He, says the doctor, continued, however, to decline gradually, and in about a month from the time of his going to Windsor, sunk suddenly under a return of the looseness (diarrhoea.)

To have enabled his medical readers to determine whether this case was really the disease which Sir Henry Halford has discovered, the doctor should have noticed the treatment to which the patient had been subjected during the existence of the erysipelatous affection of the face. The result, in our humble opinion, proves the truth of the old saying, "too many cooks spoil the broth." We suspect our medical readers will not consider a case of debility from abscess, a true case of the climacteric disease. The patient being free from pain, and his vital energies being evidently in a declining state, with what view were "very large doses of opium and other narcotics administered? Did they not, by debilitating the digestive organs (which practitioners in general consider the grand source of nourishment), render the exhibition of tonic cordials and a generous diet unavailing? If medicines be administered to paralyse the powers of the digestive organs, a generous or nutritive diet can afford very little if any benefit to a sinking constitution. In the progress of this disease, Dr. Good observes, medicine will be found to accomplish but little. The constitutional debility, says he, must be met by *tonic cordials* and a generous diet (!!), and a scrupulous attention should be paid to such contingencies of body or mind, as may, from an exciting cause, aggravate the morbid diseased condition of the body, if already in a state of activity. Congestions must be removed where they exist, and every organ have room for the little play the rigidity of advanced life allows; and where aperients are necessary, they should consist principally of the warm and bitter roots, or resins, as rhubarb, guaiacum, and spike aloes. In many instances he thinks the Bath water, and, in a few, that of Cheltenham, will be also found of collateral use; and especially, says he, where we have reason to hope, that a beneficial impression has been made on the disease, and that the system is about to recover itself! !

The LAST remark, proceeds Dr. Good, I shall beg leave to offer, I must give in the words of Sir Henry Halford himself; and if not strictly medical, it is of *more than medical* importance; and I have very great pleasure, says he, in seeing it put forth from so high an authority, and finding its way into a professional volume!! "For the rest," says Sir Henry Halford, "the patient must minister to

himself... To be able to contemplate with complacency the issue of a disorder, which the great Author of our being may, in his kindness, have intended as a warning to us to prepare for a better existence, is of prodigious advantage to recovery, as well as to comfort; and the retrospect of a well-spent life is a cordial of infinitely more efficacy, than *all* the resources of the medical art," or at least such medical art of which Mr. Secretary Cobb had the full advantage. "Oh, it is great, wonderfully great, to be able to command a consultation of legitimate physicians; and it must redound to the credit of every *enlightened* man to make his exit *secundum artem*. In order to enable our readers to judge for themselves whether the state of system described by Sir Henry Halford, as the climacteric disease, is distinct from the species of emaciation "atrophia senilis," or the atrophy of old age of different authors, we shall give a copy of Dr. Good's description of the latter.

"In the atrophy of debility common to old age, the cellular membrane, that is, the part containing as well as the parts contained, seems rather to shrivel away, in many cases to be carried away, by absorption, and the muscular fibres to become dried up and rigid, rather than loose and flabby. In this case, the assimilating powers seemed to have done their duty to the last, and, like an empty stomach, when loaded with gastric juice in a moment of sudden death, to have preyed upon and devoured *themselves* (!!) for it is probable," continues the Doctor, "that more than half the bulk of the muscles, and of the substance of many of the organs, is carried off in the same manner. Here, then, says he, we are to look for the proximate cause of the disease towards the other end of the chain, or among the chylific viscera (the stomach, liver, and duodenum), and we shall not in general look in vain: not, indeed, that we shall *always, or even commonly*, find it in the stomach, or in the liver; for the appetite may not fail, though its demand is small, or easily satisfied, and probably digests what is introduced into it." Yet here, says the Doctor, the greater part of the food rests, or rather, it passes into the intestines, and very little into the lacteals, insomuch that many of our celebrated anatomists have thought that the mesenteric glands of old people become obliterated, while Ruyeh contended that mankind pass the latter part of their lives without lacteals, and that he himself was doing so at the time he was committing his ideas to paper! On the mode of treatment of this emaciation of old age, observes Dr. Good, "it is to be met by the richest foods, wine, and the warmth of another person sleeping in the same bed." Neither an attentive perusal of Doctor Good's description of the emaciation of debility common to old age, nor of Sir Henry Halford's "elegant and perspicuous description of the climacteric disease," together with the aid of the observations of our experience has enabled us to discover, a difference that can entitle the latter to the consideration of a distinct disease. To the name *climacteric disease*, adopted by Sir Henry Halford, and that of *marasmus climactericus*, by Dr. Good, there is, in our opinion, a great objection. There are several climacteric stages; and the term *climacteric disease*, applies as much to one stage as to another, and

according to some writers, every climacteric stage has its disease. Again, the state of system which constitutes this climacteric disease, takes place in different constitutions at different periods. We have seen the infants of unhealthy parents born with it, with the peculiar countenance which more strongly characterises this state of constitution than any other symptom. Even individuals who inherit good constitutions from their parents, by dissipation, and a variety of abuses, hasten the grand climacteric stage; and hence it is not uncommon to meet with a person at the age of twenty-five or thirty, afflicted with all the symptoms described by Sir Henry Halford, in his description of his newly-discovered disease, and rapidly to fall a sacrifice to it. It very rarely happens after the period of manhood, which by some writers is termed the autumn of life, that all the organs of the body are in the same state of health or debility, or possess a conservative power, when time has commenced its debilitating attack on the fabric. In passing through life, there are very few who do not exercise one part of the machine more than another, or who were not born with an organ pre-disposed to disease, or more irritable than the others; and on this account the atrophy of old age appears somewhat different in different persons. When the system has nearly run its course, or the climacteric disease of Sir Henry Halford has commenced, those parts of the body which have been most exercised or kept in a state of irritation or excitement, or were originally irritable or tender, will of course most suffer, and consequently be the first to shew the inroads of time. Such local affections are signals of an invasion at which the patient should take alarm. For instance, in the man who has actively employed his mind in deep or intricate research, the brain will sooner give way than the stomach, or any other organ. In the one who indulges in gluttony, the stomach will be the first to lose its energy. In the inebriate, the mischief extending from the stomach to the brain and ganglions, the first symptoms will be indigestion, and great depression of spirits. In the abandoned debauchee, the bladder, the prostate gland, &c. will shew the first symptom of the commencement of the general breaking up; and in the female who has had many children, the decay will commence in the uterus.

A change however, takes place in the system of blood-vessels in advanced age, which, by depressing the vital powers, or the chief spring of the machine, tends greatly to weaken the conservative power, to aggravate local mischief, and to shorten life, which has been greatly neglected by all who have written on the debility or emaciation of old age. During youth, or the period of growth, the arterial portion of the system of blood vessels contains more blood than the portion termed veins. During manhood, the quantity of blood in both portions becomes equal, but after that period the quantity in the veins increases, and as the person advances in life, continues to increase. This change seems to be the effect of the debilitating influence of age on the heart and arteries, in consequence of which they are not able to transmit the blood through the veins; the circulation in the veins being as much dependant on the propelling power of the heart as that in the arte-

sies. The distended veins, independent of retarding the circulation of the blood, mechanically oppress the brain, in which the primary moving power of the system resides, and which is in fact the main-spring of the body. The other organs of vital importance, as the lungs, the stomach, &c., are likewise oppressed, and the superficial veins are often so distended as not to yield to a degree of pressure capable of stopping the pulse, or the action of the carotid arteries. In this state of general oppression of the system (from the mechanical effects of over-distended veins and languid circulation), the patient feels great debility in the extremities, stupor and drowsiness, oppression at the heart, and often a most distressing dejection of spirits, with the other symptoms of a general breaking up, as edematous swelling of the legs, and frequently an effusion of serum in the chest, loss of appetite, irregular state of bowels, flatulence, &c. Although he feels such a degree of prostration of strength, as to suppose that whatever is likely to reduce his vital powers, as an extra motion, &c. would terminate his existence, the result of loss of blood from a vein, is almost an immediate accession of strength. He feels, and which is in fact the case, as if a considerable weight had been removed off the spring of life. The heart begins to perform its office, the pulse rises, the lips exhibit a healthy red, the eyes lose their dulness, the mind is animated, the stomach calls for food, the kidneys and intestines perform their duty, and the patient in a few days finds himself in comparative health. By way of illustration, we shall here briefly notice a case, which was termed by a Mr. Ring, an apothecary, of New-street, Hanover-square, "a breaking up of constitution." A female, aged about 60, had been confined to her room many months, with all the symptoms noticed by Sir Henry Halford as attendant on his "climacteric disease." Her mistress, with whom she had lived many years as cook, considered her "bedridden." On attempting to leave her room, a varicose vein in the right leg gave way, from which about three pints of dark blood escaped before surgical assistance could be procured. Mr. Ring, on noticing the quantity of blood on the floor, shook his head. He lost no time in applying a compress and roller over the ruptured vessel, and, on leaving the house, he observed to her mistress, that the accident would no doubt, in her debilitated state, hasten her dissolution. In the evening the patient found herself much stronger; she experienced refreshing sleep, which she had not done for many years; the following morning she was not annoyed as usual by a noise in the ears; her general health rapidly improving, she was in a few days able to resume her former situation in the kitchen.

The following case we introduce to shew the effect of a low diet, and anti-stimulating, or anti-phlogistic medicines, in a case of debility of old age, termed by Sir Henry Halford, the climacteric disease. Mr. S. a respectable solicitor, of Doughty-street, at the age of 65, became extremely nervous, often complaining of giddiness, great lowness of spirits, loss of appetite, spasms about the region of the heart, and irregular bowels. Having had a gouty affection in his feet, when he was about forty years of age, he attributed his sufferings to atonic gout, and accordingly took strengthening medicines with the view of bringing on a regular paroxysm. After

persevering in the use of a tonic mixture (extract of rhubarb root in camphorated julep and compound spirit of ammonia) his general health and spirits greatly improved, and an unhealthy or languid gouty inflammation took place in the right foot. This affection so highly pleased him, that he applied flannel, and a bottle of warm water to the part, to bring it forward. The spasms in the chest continuing to recur, although evidently much diminished in force and frequency, a near relation prevailed on him to consult Dr. Pitcairn. The doctor pronounced the spasms to be symptomatic of inflammatory action, and although his pulse was languid, and his countenance bespoke general debility, the doctor adopted an opposite treatment. He was ordered to live low, to avoid spirits and wine, and to take cooling medicines, as a saline purgative, and the saline mixture. The inflammation in the foot, he considered worthy of notice, only as an indication of the inflammatory condition of the body. After following this treatment two days, the spasms increased in violence; his spirits were exceedingly depressed, the inflammation in the foot subsided, and the extremities became cold. The patient being persuaded from his general feelings, that his vital powers were rapidly sinking, implored the doctor to allow him to take a more nourishing diet, and a cordial medicine: the doctor, however, would not give up his opinion, and his relative who continued with him, would not allow of the slightest deviation from the directions he had left. On the next visit, the patient told him, that the spasms had considerably increased in violence, and if they did not abate, he was certain they would terminate his life in two days. He assured him that he had always found brandy to cure him, and he recollects having had them as violently when he was about 45 years of age, when brandy succeeded in subduing the disease, after anti-spasmodic medicines had failed. The doctor smiled, and emphatically observed, "My dear friend, spasms never destroy life, they always decline with the strength of the body, and wear themselves out. The violence of your spasms shews great vital energy, and contra-indicates the use of a stimulus." In the evening, the spasms returned about every two hours with increased violence, and finding that he could not survive many more attacks, he requested his medical friend who attended with Dr. Pitcairn, to remain with him. About 12 o'clock he experienced a severe attack of spasm, and he then stated he could not survive two more such attacks. At two o'clock he was visited by another, which continued nearly a minute, during which his pulse completely stopped. On recovery, he stated, with a countenance expressive of despair, that he was certain the next attack would end in death. He afterwards dozed, and about three o'clock exclaimed, "Oh, doctor! doctor! come, or I die." The doctor, who was inclining on the sofa, immediately ran to him, and, to his surprise, found him dead. We are satisfied, from the effects of the cordial medicines he had taken, and the great benefit he had always derived from brandy, when affected with spasms, that had this patient been allowed to have followed the dictates of his own feelings, he might have lived ten years longer. The doctor, like the Venetian nobleman, Cornaro, prolonged his own life by low diet, and by avoiding stimulants; and physicians, in treating patients, are too apt to be influenced by

the effects of remedies and diet on themselves, and to judge more from their own feelings, than those of their patients. Dr. Pitcairn, on being informed that the patient had died suddenly, observed that a blood vessel must have given way in his brain, and produced fatal apoplexy. In order to ascertain the real cause of his sudden death, he expressed a wish to have him opened, which was accordingly done. The brain was free from effusion of blood or serum, and perfectly healthy. The viscera of the chest and belly were also healthy, and in vain did the surgeon (a lecturer on anatomy), carefully examine the body for the cause of his death.

This venous plenitude is not the consequence of overfeeding, as is generally imagined, but of reduction of the propelling power of the heart and arteries, and consequently more likely to be diminished by a stimulating diet, than otherwise. By a diminution of stimulating articles of diet, or by the use of "opium or other narcotics," the cause will assuredly be increased. It will also be increased by whatever tends to diminish the action of the arteries, as cupping or leeching, and in a few minutes after such treatment common in cases of impending apoplexy, from a gorged state of the venous system, life has ceased without a struggle.

A nobleman, aged 65, of extensive reading and observation, some time since told us, that he had been led by experience to consider fulness of the superficial veins, to be an indication for the use of the warm bath; and that this remedy, at the degree of 98 (Fahr.) uniformly had the effect of removing the distension, and from the increased fulness of the pulse, which followed, he was induced to attribute it to its increasing the quantity of blood in the system of arteries. He had also observed that this venous plethora was removed by vomiting, and by sneezing. With him, distension of the superficial veins was always a precursor of head-ache, indigestion, and general languor.

It is a curious fact, that an old person, whose life, from general debility, seems to be rapidly drawing to a close, on being affected with alienation of mind termed madness, the health of body gradually improves, and, when arrived to the state of apparent good health, it will remain stationary for many years. It seems, that when the brain is not exercised by reason, the instinctive powers advance, and the ganglionic system is called into action; hence the digestive organs, which had previously been in a very weak condition, perform their office; and the bowels, which were confined, or sluggish, become regular, and the appetite ravenous. This change we have particularly noticed in our 51st Number, page 345, in an article on the case of his late Majesty.

Of all the changes that take place in advanced life, those of increase of blood in the veins, and diminution in the arteries, tend most to oppress the vital powers, and to favour local disease. Organic disease, either in the lungs, liver, spleen, coats of the stomach, intestines, bladder, &c., is in advanced life; the consequence of venous congestion, and diminished arterial action. Apoplexy and dropsy, which terminate the lives of nearly one half of the aged people of this country, are also its common consequences. By compressing the brain, not only the heart, but the lungs, stomach, &c.

are enfeebled. Hence, the state of the system of blood-vessels in elderly persons, particularly the venous portion, merits particular attention. Some physicians, from the general venous congestion that prevails in old age, suppose nearly all the diseases of age to be of a plethoric nature, and accordingly recommend bleeding, purging, and a spare diet, as if the digestive organs, &c. performed their office better during that period of debility, than during manhood or youth. Abstraction of blood from a vein, as we have already stated, and also a warm active purgative, generally afford great relief; but if blood be taken from the arterial system, as by cupping or leeching, and a saline aperient be employed, as Glauber's, the Epsom or the Cheltenham salt, the general debility will be increased; and if the vital powers be so reduced as to be incapable of a little re-action, death will very likely ensue. When the vital powers are oppressed by general venous fulness, a very slight reduction of them will occasion death. Life indeed in old people is sometimes kept up by irritation, or morbid action, in some part of the body; and in such cases a sedative medicine, as the meadow saffron, or even a cold application to the part affected, has been immediately followed by death. In our 76th Number, page 109, we have noticed a case of gout, in which a quack medicine, the basis of which was meadow saffron, destroyed life in a few minutes; and similar instances, from the injudicious exhibition of this remedy to allay gouty irritation, or local inflammatory excitement, in elderly subjects, are detailed in our two first series. A low diet, or a diet free from stimulants, also tends to increase the venous fulness, by diminishing the propelling power of the heart. Another cause of venous congestion, is ossification of the large arteries, to which elderly asthmatics are particularly subject. To no state of body is the system of Abernethy more applicable, than to that which takes place after manhood, or the debility of age—viz. the blue pill, a stomachic, and a warm aperient.—The blue pill should be administered sparingly, so as not to affect the gums, or produce slight fever. The object is to invigorate the absorbent system and the small arteries, and thereby prevent accumulation of deposit in the viscera, &c., and also congestion of the vessels. With this view, four grains administered every night for the first week in every month, will be sufficient. We have been in the habit of prescribing it with the cordial confection, for the purpose of reconciling it to the stomach, and preventing its disturbing the intestines: as the following.

Take of Blue Pill, twenty-eight grains;

Cordial Confection, two scruples—Mix.

And divide into fourteen pills. Two to be taken every night at bed-time.

If the intestines are particularly sluggish, or the bowels not sufficiently relieved every day, the following pills may be substituted for the foregoing composition.

Take of Blue Pill,

Extract of Rhubarb, of each half a drachm;

Oil of Caraway Seeds, ten drops;

Rhubarb, a sufficient quantity to form a mass—Mix.

To be divided into fourteen pills, two of which may be taken every night.

As an aperient, in case of the bowels not being sufficiently relieved, the following draught may be taken before, or two hours after breakfast, as most agreeable to the patient.

Take of Tincture of Rhubarb,

Compound ditto of Senna, from two to three drachms ;  
Simple Peppermint Water, one ounce—Mix.

If the patient should prefer pills, the following may be substituted for the above draught.

Take of Aromatic Pill, five grains ;

Alcaline Extract of Jalap, ten ditto—Mix.

And divide into three pills—(for one dose).

If the patient be subject to irritation about the rectum, bladder, or urethra, a less stimulating purgative should be employed, as the following.

Take of Alcaline Extract of Jalap ;

Ditto ditto of Rhubarb, of each seven grains ;

Oil of Caraway Seeds, two drops—Mix.

And divide into three pills—(for one dose.)

The saline purgatives, as the Epsom salt, Cheltenham salt, Glauber's salt, Seidlitz powders, &c., by reducing the circulation in the abdominal viscera, and by increasing the accumulation of venous blood in the head, never fail to increase the cause of the general debility ; and in elderly subjects, an alarming degree of debility, and death itself, have frequently followed a dose of a saline purgative.

The object of a purgative in cases of debility, is not only to keep up the peristaltic motion of the intestines, but to increase the action of the arteries of all the viscera, in order to prevent venous congestion. In cases of debility of old age, the necessity of supporting or invigorating the stomach, must appear obvious to every person acquainted with its important office in the animal economy, especially when the system is in a state of increasing emaciation. In advanced life, the sedative bitters, and copious draughts of a mild decoction, as that of sarsaparilla, by relaxing the stomach, prove very injurious. The object is not only to stimulate the stomach, but also to constringe it, or rather increase its tonicity. With this view, a wine-glassful of the following mixture may be taken twice a day.

(1.)—Take of Infusion of Buchu Leaves, six ounces ;

Compound Tincture of Rhatany Root, one ounce ;

Compound Spirit of Ammonia, three drachms—Mix.

Or, if the patient should be nervous and restless at night, or of a gouty habit, the following mixture may be substituted for the above.

(2.)—Take of Compound Tincture of Rhatany, or,

Ditto of Peruvian Bark, one ounce ;

Ditto, Spirit of Juniper, one ounce ;

Camphorated Mixture, seven ounces—Mix.

Or, if the bowels should be disposed to be constive, three tablespoonfuls of the following mixture may be taken three times a day.

(3.)—Take of Infusion of Rhubarb, six ounces ;  
Compound Tincture of Bark, one ounce ;  
Tincture of Buchu Leaves, or,

Compound Spirit of Juniper, one ounce.—Mix.

If, on the contrary, the bowels be irritable, or too open, the following composition may be substituted for the preceding.

(4.)—Take of compound Tincture of Rhatany, one ounce ;

Lime Water, six ounces ;

Tincture of Buchu leaves, one ounce—Mix.

Or, if he be affected with chronic purging or dysentery,

(5.)—Take of Cordial Confection, two drachms ;

Gum Arabic Powder, three drachms ;

Compound Tincture of Rhatany Root, one ounce ;

Infusion of Logwood, seven ounces.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three or four times a day. If this should not succeed in sufficiently restraining the looseness, two or three drachms of the Tincture of Gum Kino may be added to it.

If the patient be asthmatic, or affected with chronic cough, or has suffered from asthma, or constitutional cough, three table-spoonsful of the following mixture may be taken three times a day.

(6.)—Take of Gum Ammoniac, one drachm ;

Camphor, twenty grains ;

Gum Arabic, one drachm ;

Infusion of Cascarilla, seven ounces ;

Etherial solution of Iron, two drachms ;

Tincture of Buchu Leaves, one ounce—Mix.

After the Camphor is reduced to powder by rubbing it in a mortar with a few drops of spirit of wine, add the gums in powder, and when well bleaded, add by degrees the infusion, continuing the trituration, till a milk-like mixture be formed, then strain it off, and add the tincture and solution.

If the extremities be cold, the legs swell, or the patient be disposed to general dropsy, half an ounce of the oxymel of squills may be substituted for the gum ammoniac in the preceding mixture.

The preceding mixtures, except No. 5, are tonic and diuretic; that is, they will strengthen the stomach, and promote the secretion of urine. In advanced age, it is of great importance to keep up a proper action in the kidneys, because the secretion of urine being from the blood, it of course tends to keep down plenitude of the venous system; and when it is not in sufficient quantity, the blood becomes overcharged with serum, the consequence of which is, edematous or dropsical swellings. The secretion being, as we have observed in our last number, excrementitious, i. e. consisting chiefly of the impurities of the blood, it is of great importance that the kidneys should properly perform their office, in order to promote the *healthy* nourishment of the body. If the secretion of urine should be in excess, a very common occurrence in elderly subjects, the use of a warm diuretic medicine, as the infusion or tincture of the buchu leaves, will not increase it, but, on the contrary, will diminish it, the excess being like the discharge termed the whites or gleet, the

consequence of debility or relaxation, and not increased action. The buchu leaves will, in fact, counteract the morbid action of the kidneys, by exciting a healthy one, and the urine will in consequence become healthy. If the patient be subject to paroxysms of pain or cramp in the stomach, and if a warm stomachic medicine, or any stimulating article taken into the stomach, produce pain, or a painful sensation of heat resembling heartburn; or if he experience acute pain in the stomach, after dinner, with a sense of constriction, nausea, vomiting of slime, &c. a stomachic, nearly free from a stimulant, should be employed, as the following mixture:

Take of Alcaline Tincture of Fumitory, six drachms;

Ditto Liquor of Iron, two ditto;

Camphorated Almond Emulsion, six ounces.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day. If this mixture should not allay the pain, a mild sedative may be added, whose influence is not likely to extend beyond the stomach, or act injuriously on the body; as the extract of henbane (three grains to each dose), or the extract of hemlock (two grains to each dose.)

Powerful bitters, as the quassia, gentian, columbo, strobiles of the hop, quinine, sulphate of quinine, and chamomile, which are nearly free from the astringent principle, instead of invigorating the stomach of an elderly person, never fail to debilitate it, and reduce the general strength; and those who regularly take such medicines, during manhood, or after the commencement of the state of constitution termed by Sir Henry Halford the climacteric disease, generally die suddenly, or are affected with lethargy, which terminates in apoplexy. The bitters noticed above are termed tonics, and this character they have obtained in consequence of proving beneficial in cases of indigestion of people in the summer or autumn of life. Such cases as we have observed in an article on Indigestion, in a late number, are generally the consequences of morbid irritation, or a feverish state of the stomach; and they prove beneficial as anodynes, and not as tonics. All the vegetable bitters, as Dr. Cullen observes, are more or less sedative. They are powerful poisons to many small animals; and it is probably on this account, the bark of trees are so strongly impregnated with it, i. e. for the protection of the woody part from worms, insects, &c. The cause of indigestion in elderly people is direct debility of the stomach, which requires a tonic medicine; and, in our opinion, no article possesses that property which is free from the astringent principle. A stimulus will constringe a relaxed part; but in cases of debility, the effect continues only as long as the stimulus acts, but the increased cohesion produced by an astringent continues for some time after its removal. Sir Henry Halford has, for some years, been in the habit of taking a draught of a solution of the Epsom salt in chamomile tea every morning before breakfast, with the view of obviating costiveness, and keeping up the vigour of the stomach. When he commenced this practice, it was no doubt very proper; but as the baronet has advanced beyond the autumn of life, we suspect he will soon be aware of the necessity of discontinuing it. He, however, like many who have advanced into the period of the "climacteric disease," may fancy himself in the middle of manhood. A

respectable solicitor, who had occasionally consulted us about fifteen years, fancied that, by following Sir Henry's practice, of taking a solution of Epsom salt, in chamomile tea, he should live to the age of 100 years. The vigour of his stomach began to decrease at the age of sixty-five; and the decay, in a few weeks, was so general, that stimulating tonics, and other active means to check its progress, or bring forward the conservative powers of the system, failed; and, to use the expression of his clerk, "He went out like the snuff of a candle." Such terminations of life in persons who had been in the regular habit of taking powerful bitters, or of indulging in the abuse of spirituous or vinous liquors, is very common in this country.

In order to invigorate the nerves of the lower extremities, and of the viscera, and to promote the circulation of the blood in the legs, which in all cases of general debility is of great importance, the legs and the back (in the course of the spine) may be well rubbed every night and morning with the galvanic brush, and thick worsted stockings worn during day and night, to keep up its salutary effects. If the legs are affected with edematous swelling, or if they should swell towards night, the skin should be supported by elastic laced stockings.

The warm bath once or twice a week is a powerful auxiliary to internal medicine. To stimulate the arterial system, so as to unload the venous, it should be employed at the degree of 98 or 100, and the object being to invigorate and equalize the circulation, the patient should not continue in it so long as to relax the body. Fifteen minutes are in general sufficient to produce the desired effect.

Oxygen inhaled to the extent of two gallons, once or twice a day, has certainly acted very efficaciously in invigorating the debilitated constitution from age; and, in some instances during its use, we have known edematous swelling of the leg, and the symptoms of venous fulness, gradually to disappear. The remedy inhaled to the extent specified above, has a great effect on the venous blood, and when an animal is confined in a small volume of atmospheric air, the venous system fills as the quantity of its oxygen is decreased, and this fact accounts for the frequent occurrence of apoplexy in elderly people in crowded rooms. In a healthy person in the prime of life, oxygen is not a stimulus as is generally imagined; for in such persons it diminishes the temperature of the system, and reduces the action of the heart when excessive. On elderly people we have found it to act as a cordial. The sea air, on account of containing more oxygen than that in large towns, or the interior of a large island, and being free from carbonic acid gas, and hydrogen and other airs which enter the atmosphere of large cities, should be preferred by elderly invalids. Alcalines, as the potass, soda, and magnesia, so frequently prescribed in conjunction with bitters, for the indigestion of elderly people (particularly the gouty), we have found to have a very debilitating effect in such cases. This effect was particularly noticed by the late Dr. Baillie, who, in some instances, found it to produce such a degree of nausea, that resisted other remedies, and evidently hastened dissolution. We speak of

the *pure* alkalies, and not the carbonates of them, which are neutral salts.

Exercise is a powerful auxiliary to medicine in cases of debility of old age. Walking promoting the circulation in the extremities, and riding on horseback that in the viscera, they should be used alternately. The exercise on the machine termed the chamber-horse acts beneficially on the viscera and the extremities; but as it does not amuse the mind, that by walking and riding is preferable, when the state of the weather, or of the earth, will admit of their being safely taken.

Sir Henry Halford, finding that driving about in a carriage is little or no exercise to the body, takes a ride on a horse every morning before breakfast, and by rising frequently in the stirrups during trotting, he not only exercises his viscera, but also his legs. To derive benefit from horse-exercise, a man should not sit at his ease; he should, however, not exert himself so as to confuse the head.

If the skin of the belly be flabby, or the bowels full and soft, the abdominal bandage, described in our 25th number, p. 775, will act as a very powerful adjuvant to medicine, in supporting the relaxed viscera, and in invigorating the absorbents, and preventing venous congestion.

We do not mean to say that all the remedies and means we have recommended above are necessary in cases of debility of old age; for if the stomach performs its office, and the bowels are regular, stimulating medicines may not be necessary, and the dilapidating or decaying progress may be arrested by proper diet, with auxiliaries, as the warm bath, exercise, friction with the galvanic brush,—and, although last, certainly not least,—*mental ease and amusement*. When the stomach does not do its duty, the use of a warm stomachic will be absolutely necessary; for although, as we have stated, the brain, and its branches the nerves, constitute the main-spring of the machine, it is to the stomach chiefly that we are to look for the renovation of the system, and even for bringing the brain and nerves into play. Having given explicit directions for the medical management of the stomach, we shall conclude this article with instructions for supplying it with materials, which are likely to digest easily, or rather, which are likely to keep it in action till the process is completed.

Mr. Abernethy, attributing nearly all the diseases that assail the human species, to abuse of the stomach, by either overloading it, or over-stimulating it, or by introducing improper articles into it, to gratify the animal feelings, limits his patients to a specific quantity of food, without regard to the periods of life, habits, peculiarities, or temperament. Like Cornaro, he contends that the food an individual leaves on his plate, does him more good than that he has taken. In answer to a question put to him by an aged gentleman, whether he might take porter, during, or immediately after dinner, he emphatically observed, in his usual polite, or mild manner, "I have no objection to porter, if you will do porter's work." With respect to Cornaro, his case was a peculiar one, and no doubt, by living abstemiously, he kept off disease in the lungs, till they became firm, or till the predisposition to disease was worn out; and having been accustomed to low diet for many years, he did not feel the want of a nutritious stimulating food.

When he arrived to the period of old age. If we were to make a division of the life of man into different ages, we would adopt the divisions of the year,—viz. infancy, the spring; youth, the summer; manhood, autumn; and old age, the winter. During the two first seasons, when the body is increasing in size, a greater quantity of food is requisite than when it has attained its full growth. In the autumn of life, a generous diet predisposes the system to a variety of inflammatory diseases. In the winter of life, the stomach requires stimulating and nutritious, but not full meals. It is the bulk of the food, and not the quantity of nourishment that is conveyed to the blood, that proves injurious to elderly people. If the stomach be over-distended, either by substantial food, or by liquids, the whole viscera of the belly, and of the chest, as well as the brain itself, will become oppressed by its mechanical effects, and by the imperfect digestion of the contents. The stomach of an elderly person not being equal to the digestion of a full meal, he requires food more frequently than during the winter of life. Four meals in the course of twenty-four hours, are in general sufficient, viz. breakfast, lunch, dinner, and supper: but as to an exact quantity at each meal, it is impossible to lay down a general rule. The strength or quantity of spices, or of spirit or wine, must be regulated according to habit and constitution; and in these particulars, we may make use of an old saying, "what is one man's food, is another man's poison." The only general rules we can give, are to avoid over-distension of stomach, over-stimulation, especially by spirits or wine, and a meal free from a stimulating article.

For Breakfast, we should condemn tea or coffee, on account of affording no nourishment, being free from stimulus, and relaxing the stomach. Cocoa and chocolate are nutritious, but containing no stimulus; a little ginger may be added, or, if an egg be taken, the stimulus of black pepper and salt will be sufficient. The egg should be boiled only about three minutes. These, with a little bread and fresh butter, will be sufficient. We have for some time been in the habit of recommending to aged patients, with weak stomachs, the sassafras cocoa, because it is not only nutritious, but also contains a mild pleasant stimulus: if there be such articles as correctives of the blood, or of the humours of the body (which some consider the sarsaparilla, &c. to be), it may be placed at the head of them. Green vegetables, as watercresses, radishes, &c. are highly improper, being very indigestible.

For Lunch, which should be taken about three hours after breakfast, or four hours before dinner, an anchovy sandwich, or the inside of a beef-steak or mutton-chop, with a little pepper and salt, or a few drops of the essence of capsicum and shalot\*, and mashed or mealy potatoes, with a wine-glassful of old maidera, sherry, port, or weak brandy and water, or sound bottled porter, will be proper. If the individual cannot properly masticate the meat, it may be minced, *after being well bruised*. Green vegetables and new bread, oysters, and salted meat, should be avoided.

\* This essence is a very pleasant aromatic, and, by warming the stomach, promotes digestion. It may be used with fish, and all kinds of hashes, beef-steaks, &c. &c.

For Dinner, he may take fish, with cayanne pepper, and a little butter, without oyster-sauce\* ; the inside of roasted or boiled beef or mutton, the inside of a beef-steak or mutton chop, lean of pork, fowl, roasted or boiled, young game, venison, rabbits, curries, mashed potatoes, and light bread pudding. As improper articles, we may notice broths and soups ;—the former relax the stomach, and the latter are very hard of digestion, on account of the quantity of strong animal jelly they contain ;—bacon, and all salted meats, duck or goose, seasoned with sage and onions, green vegetables, new bread, pickles, pastry, heavy puddings, fruit, cheese. As a substitute for the latter article, an anchovy, with a little bread and butter, may be taken, by way of a finish morsel. All deserts are bad, especially kernels of nuts, filberds, walnuts, almonds, and also sweet articles and preserved fruits, ices, jellies, and weak wines.

Mr. Abernethy condemns the practice of taking a liquid of any kind during the dinner meal, under the idea that it retards digestion, by diluting the gastric juice ; but if liquids are improper at one meal, they cannot be otherwise in all ; and certain it is, no meal in general passes off more pleasantly than breakfast, which consists chiefly of diluent liquids. A little wine, during the dinner meal, by dividing the food, and invigorating the stomach, promotes digestion in elderly people, and prevents the sensation of distension which is apt to take place after a solid meal. The practice of taking wine after dinner, or of taking it as recommended by Abernethy after a meal, when the stomach is supposed to be fatigued by the process of digestion, or when it may stand in need of a stimulus, is bad, because the wine itself must pass through digestion, and when introduced towards the conclusion of the process, it is very likely to become acid, and occasion a fermentation, that may render the chyme unhealthy. The old saying, of “ after dinner rest awhile,” is as applicable to the stomach as to the body. An indulgence in a nap, which most elderly subjects are disposed to take after the dinner meal, seems greatly to promote digestion. The French habit, of taking coffee soon after the dinner meal, or the English one, of taking tea between dinner and supper, are equally bad for elderly people. They both relax the stomach, and the latter (tea) produces a sense of thirst. In young subjects, who have indulged in an excess of wine, they prove useful, by diluting the

\* A gentleman, who has studied the “ wholesomes,” and has no dislike to savoury dishes, has favoured us with the following receipt for a fish sauce, which he says he has found more grateful than any other, and to keep his stomach in a proper state. He also uses it with a beef-steak, and many made dishes.

Take of Mushroom Ketchup,

Walnut ditto, of each a quarter of a pint ;

Soy, one ounce ;

Four Anchovies ;

Essence of Capsicum and Shalot, half an ounce ;

Bay Salt, a quarter of an ounce.

Stew the anchovies with the salt, in two ounces of water, and, when reduced to a pulp, add the other articles.

contents of the stomach; and in nervous subjects, during the period of manhood, they allay the general nervous excitement produced by the dinner meal, by exciting respiration. On elderly people they have a contrary effect.

For Supper, gruel, with a little fresh butter, pepper, and salt, (instead of wine and sugar) arrow-root, sago or tapioca jelly, with a little brandy and nutmeg, or the spirit of nutmeg—Broth, thickened with oatmeal, or what is termed Scotch barley, with pepper and salt, or an anchovy sandwich. Cheese, particularly toasted,—cream-cheese, milk, oysters, firm fibred meat; salted meat, as bacon, beef, tongue, are improper. The great objection to milk, without some vegetable jelly diffused throughout it, is the production of a strong curd, which, being very hard of digestion, is apt to disorder the stomach. We some time since met with a case of disordered stomach in an elderly person, in which a piece of curd, of the size of a hen's egg, was thrown up nearly in a putrid state, six days after he had taken about three-quarters of a pint of fresh cow's milk for supper. Oysters, either stewed, roasted, or in a raw state, are very difficult of digestion. One great objection to them is, the loaded state of their stomachs and intestines, the contents of which we are persuaded often disturb the digestive organs. By boiling or roasting, they are rendered very tough. In a raw state, with a little vinegar, pepper, and bread and butter, they generally agree with elderly people, whose digestive organs have not partaken of the weakness of the system; but we have known elderly people, who fancied their stomachs to be in a very healthy state, to be much distressed after taking two or three oysters, although well peppered, &c. The late Bishop of Hereford, after taking raw oysters for supper, although at the time he took them he was in pretty good health, and free from any symptom of indigestion, was attacked during the night with a disorder of the stomach and intestines, which terminated his life in a few hours.

The old adage, of "after supper walk a while," may be followed by a person during the autumn of life, if he be equal to it, or not fatigued by his daily exertions; but to an elderly person it would be very apt to interrupt digestion, and to prevent sound or refreshing sleep. So far as it regards time, it is good advice. An elderly person should not adjourn to his bed till an hour after supper. Very many of the numerous instances of elderly people being sound dead in their beds, are the consequences of going to bed immediately after taking supper. The practice of taking a glass of some diluted spirit, as brandy, hollands, &c. after supper, is perhaps a good one, provided it be taken in such quantity as to warm the stomach only. The practice of smoking a cigar after supper, to some asthmatic and nervous subjects, proves beneficial, by quieting the nervous system. It has in general a debilitating effect; but if it be necessary to secure a good night's rest, it will certainly prove less injurious to the system than a restless night.

Some ancient writers highly recommend elderly persons to have a young subject for a bed-fellow, supposing that they will imbibe some vital power, or animating principle, from him; and some say, that the health of young subjects has been greatly impaired, in conse-

quence of being robbed of the natural vital heat by his bed-fellow; a bed-fellow, however, is no doubt of great service to a weak elderly person, by keeping him warm; and as the matter of heat is supplied in greater quantity by a young subject than an old one, the latter should be preferred.

It has been a question with some *elderly* physicians, how long a person debilitated by age should indulge in sleep, or in a warm bed. The observations we have made on the "quantity of food," apply also to sleep. Some people, from habit, mental exertions, and peculiarity of constitution, require more sleep than others. Generally speaking, eight hours of sleep out of every twenty-four, are sufficient. When a person, after sleeping soundly, awakes with a heavy head, giddiness, or general languor, the probability is, he has slept too long. An elderly person should, therefore, be governed as to the quantity of sleep by its effects; and he should recollect, that if he has taken a nap after dinner, he will require less during the night. Some practitioners condemn indulgence in bed, or in an horizontal position, because it favours the circulation of blood to the brain, and debilitates the body, by increasing perspiration. Elderly people do not suffer from an accumulation of blood in the head, from *increased afflux of blood, or arterial action*, but from a retarded return of it from diminished arterial action; and hence it is common for elderly subjects, when affected with giddiness or head-ache, from over-distension of the veins and sinuses of the brain, to experience great relief on lying down on a bed or sofa. An horizontal position, unquestionably, favours the circulation of the blood in the extremities; and it is common for the feet, which are cold on standing, walking, or sitting, to become warm on placing them in an horizontal position, or on lying on a sofa. Indulgence in bed, by equalising the circulation, we believe to be beneficial to elderly people. If the patient, from some peculiarity of constitution or formation, should find such position to produce head-ache, or in any way to disorder the body, he would do wrong in persisting in it. As to perspiration reducing the powers of the system, we have always found those who do not perspire the most healthy; and by it, there is no doubt, the viscera of the chest and belly, and the whole nervous system, are benefited. It is by bringing the skin into action that the warm-bath proves beneficial in a great variety of diseases. The colliquative perspiration attendant on the advanced stage of organic disease, should certainly not be encouraged; but we are satisfied more injury is done by checking it than by encouraging it.

#### HEARTBURN.

A practitioner, having met with a few cases of the painful sensation in the stomach occasioned by prevailing acid, termed heartburn, in which large doses of the alcalies (potass, soda, and magnesia) afforded a respite only of a few hours, determined to give various vegetable and mineral acids a trial. Of the mineral acids, he found the dilute sulphuric (from eight to ten drops, in a wine-glass of water) most beneficial in preventing the production of the gastric acid, and, consequently, in preventing a recurrence of the heartburn; but, eventually, he found the vegetable acids, as the lemon juice,

diluted with water, to afford the most permanent benefit. When acidity prevails in the stomach to a degree as to occasion heartburn, it may be referred to increased excitement, or a feverish state of the stomach; and in such case, a mineral or vegetable acid, by reducing the irritation and temperature of the organ, or, as Dr. Armstrong would say, by contracting the distended blood-vessels of the inner or mucous membrane, will prevent the production of a gastric acid. We have derived considerable benefit from the use of a weak solution of the tartaric acid; and although very subject to violent paroxysms of heartburn, particularly after taking port wine, malt liquor, and articles with much sugar, we continued free from it, as long as we made use of the substitute for cyder, for our common beverage, for which we have given a receipt from a correspondent in our forty-fourth number, p. 240. We have received equal benefit from the use of cyder and perry.

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### ASTHMA, WINTER COUGH, &c.

Dr. Macleod has published the following concise account of St. John's Bean (noticed in our 116th number as a remedy for asthma and winter cough), from the pen of Mr. Blackett, a scientific surgeon of London, to whom the medical profession are much indebted for some valuable practical remarks on the belladonna in diminishing sensibility of nerves, and in promoting the dilatation of the os uteri in cases of rigidity.

"The carob, or St. John's Bean, when green, is aperient. A decoction of it has been advantageously used in clysters, and, taken internally, is a very gentle laxative. The pulp of this bean is found to be demulcent, emollient, pectoral, and slightly expectorant; highly useful in asthmatic complaints and convulsive coughs, particularly hooping cough. It may be given in the following manner. Take of carob, well bruised, one ounce; add to it one pint and a half of water: let it boil gently down to a pint, and strain; of which give the patient a wine-glassful every three or four hours; or, as it is palatable, it can be used for children as a common drink. It will by these means overcome the cough in a very easy and pleasing way.

"For asthmatics it will be found of greater service if prescribed with the decoction of the Iceland moss. Take of the carob, well bruised, two ounces; add to it two pints of the decoction of the Iceland moss; let it boil gently down to a pint, and strain; of which three or four table-spoonsful may be taken every four or five hours.

"It formerly constituted one of the ingredients of the syrup of poppies, and would, in my opinion, at the present day, be of more efficacy than sugar in making this syrup."

Dr. Jones, who has resided at Malta, informs us that he has often prescribed the oxymel of carob in cases of consumption and constitutional cough, and that he has found it, in many apparently hopeless cases of consumption, to restore the patient to health. He has always found it to allay cough, promote digestion, allay fever, and diminish colliquative perspiration. He says, that independent of a peculiar saccharine matter, it affords a peculiar gum resin, resembling a mixture of the balsam of tolu and benzoin.

## NERVOUS HEAD-ACHE.

Few people have suffered more from periodical nervous headache than Mr. S. a respectable perfumer of Princes Street. A paroxysm generally came on every night, and was sometimes so violent as to occasion delirium. The head became very hot, but there was no increased determination of blood to it, and abstraction of blood never afforded any relief. He had consulted the most eminent practitioners of London, who attributed it to different causes, but their medicines proved ineffectual. The only thing from which he received any relief, was a remedy of his own, viz. a lotion of distilled vinegar (12 ounces), spirit of wine (3 ounces), and ether (2 ounces). This he applied to the scalp and forehead by means of a thin soft napkin; and, as soon as it became nearly dry, the lotion was renewed. During the use of this application, the pain abated, so that he could get a little sleep. For spasms about the diaphragm, to which he was also subject, he was induced, by the solicitations of a friend, to give oxygen a trial. This remedy failed to allay the spasms; but finding the affection of the head to decrease, Mr. S. continued it; and after persevering for a few weeks (inhaling three quarts twice a day), the affection of the head entirely ceased, and his general health improved. This is one of the most decisive instances of the efficacy of oxygen in allaying nervous excitement we have met with. In a late number, we have noticed the effect of oxygen in the cure of head-ache, attendant on fever, in which the vessels of the brain were evidently overloaded.

## DIABETES.

An eminent physician informs us, that he has found the Prussic acid, administered in the dose of two drops, twice a day, in a wine-glassful of the infusion of rhatany root, a clyster of decoction of pomegranate rind (a pint with thirty drops of laudanum and a table-spoonful of common salt), once a day, and the occasional use of pills, the extract of rhubarb and jalap, and a little ginger, with the use of the warm bath, to succeed in curing a case of diabetes, of long standing. He confined the patient to a diet of animal food, and did not allow him to take any other liquid than weak brandy and water. Dr. Heineken, an eminent physician of Madeira, states, that the patient, whose case of diabetes we have noticed in our eighty-ninth number, page 529, as cured in 1822, by opium, warm bath, &c. &c., experienced a relapse in 1824, and that it then gave way to the same treatment. The doctor considers opium the only remedy worth a trial in this disease.

SURGERY.  
WATERY HEAD.

In our seventy-first number, page 1118, we have given an account of a new plan of treating this disease by pressure of a bandage, which, we believe, was first suggested by Sir Gilbert Blane, physician extraordinary to his Majesty. About two years since, Mr. Barnard, an eminent surgeon of Bath, published a case of chronic watery head, in which this treatment succeeded. The disease being far advanced, Mr. B. thought there was little chance of recovery. Since that time, Mr. B. has had another opportunity of giving the practice a trial. The patient was eighteen months old, and the disease was clearly marked

and advancing. After emptying the bowels, Mr. B. employed pressure by means of strips of adhesive plaster, instead of a roller, as recommended by Sir Gilbert Blane, which "were renewed, from time to time, as the diminution of the size of the head rendered necessary." The child rapidly recovered. From the history and result of the treatment, Mr. B. says, he is inclined to think that the original disease is in the head, rather than the stomach and bowels, as stated by Dr. Yates, and other chylopoietic dreamers.

#### URETHRAL STRICTURE, &c.

For the following interesting case of disease of the urethra, in which a judiciously decisive treatment prevented much severe sufferings, and saved the life of the patient, we are indebted to Dr. Kinglake, an eminent physician of Taunton.

"No description can convey an adequate idea of the torture experienced from urinary effusion by a patient, whose case was lately referred to me. The upper part of the urethra had been for a long time narrowed by strictures, so as to impede a free passage of urine; at length adhesive inflammation had nearly obliterated the cavity in that situation. Bougies and catheters were occasionally introduced with much pain and difficulty, until it was thought impracticable to pass the smallest instrument beyond the obstruction. Suppurative inflammation produced sinuses, openings into the cellular texture of the scrotum, &c. into which urine was effused, that induced enormous distention.

"The enlargement soon became so excessive, as to cause it to give way in different parts, through which urine and sanguous fluids were discharged, causing the most acute suffering to the patient. The remedy that suggested itself was to pass a small catheter, by measured force, through the obstructed part, and as far beyond as could be safely effected. This was done to the extent of about five inches up the urethral canal. In that situation an external incision was made in the urethra, sufficiently large to afford a free escape to both urine and pus that had been obstructed and diverted into the cellular substance of the adjoining parts.

"The relief was immediate; the cellular distention speedily subsided; a ready vent was permanently found at the opening, from whence were discharged the urinary, puriform, and other fluids that had been effused into the cellular structure. The patient has not since undergone any acute pain; his exhausted strength from protracted irritation is greatly restored, and when the opening that was made shall have closed up, the urine will probably resume its natural route through the upper portion of the urethra.

"It would have been desirable to have made the opening in the membranous part of the urethra, but the strictured state of the upper portion of that canal rendered it inaccessible to any instrument. Urinary effusion into the cells of the scrotum and parts adjacent, from urethral obstruction, is most effectually relieved by an external opening above the obstructed part. Delay is dangerous, as in the case under consideration; and no other mode of remedy can be equally discreet and availing."

Taunton, July 20, 1825.

To the Editors of the *Gazette of Health.*

VOL. X.

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**WOUNDS RECEIVED DURING DISSECTION OF A DEAD BODY.—(By Doctor Kinglake of Taunton.)**

The allusion, in the last number of the *Gazette of Health*, to the efficacy of sucking the surface of wounds accidentally inflicted in the course of dissecting putrid bodies, appears to be well-founded, and merits confident trial on every occasion that may occur for using it. In my own personal experience, about two years since, the practice seemed to have succeeded in obviating serious inflammation, which was imminently threatened.

In that instance the surface of the sore was first well washed with soap and water, and then farther cleansed by the process of assiduous sucking during several minutes, which was often repeated in the course of the ensuing day, when the incipient inflammation gradually subsided.

In all cases of wounds produced by rusty nails, and other unclean instruments, by the teeth of animals, whether rabid or not; by the stings of insects and the bite of the viper, or other venomous reptiles; by acrid fluids coming into casual contact with incidental excoriations, the absterging power of strong and persevering suction affords a reasonable prospect of effectually counteracting eventual mischief.

In situations not conveniently accessible to the remedy of sucking by the lips, would not its efficacy be equalled by the application of a cupping glass over the sore, as soon as possible after it has been made? The removal of the superincumbent air would cause a forcible explosive action from the surface of the wound, which by subsequent ablutions, by means of either cold or tepid water, poured in a fall of at least two feet from the spout of a tea-kettle on its surface, for about an hour at a time, and repeating it, in three or four instances, within twenty-four hours from the occurrence of the accident, would most likely prevent any noxious effect that might result from an undetached adhesion of virulent or putrid matter to a part where it may induce inflammation, in the morbid influence of which the system at large may become destructively involved.

It has never occurred to me to see a case of hydrophobia. Several instances have fallen under my notice, of severe bites by suspicious dogs, all which have been treated by pouring water for many hours on the wounded surface, and no morbid consequence has ensued.

The mode of employing the remedy has been by staining the wounded part with ink, and directing the effusion of water on it until the black tinge be literally washed out, which will require an ablution of several times to effect.

The mineral acids, especially the muriatic, are said chemically to decompose and render innoxious the envenomed saliva of rabid animals. If experience should confirm the truth of this assertion, an antidote of a very direct and effective nature will be found in the chemical agency of those acids against the appalling danger of hydrophobic disease, from the bites of infuriated or maddened animals. The chemical efficacy, however, of the mineral acids, locally applied to the bitten part, would be additionally availing, by being conjoined with the mechanical remedy of pouring water in the manner described, on the wound, by which the remains of the mineral acid, and all other offending materials, would be effectually removed, and the sore left to a natural process of speedy and perfect healing.

Taunton, July 20, 1825.

## EXTENSIVE ULCERATIONS.

The following valuable article, on a new mode of accelerating the healing of wounds in imitation of nature, in what is termed the scabbing process, has lately been published by Mr. Bush, of Frome, an active and scientific member of the profession.

" The healing of surfaces extensively denuded of their natural covering, such as frequently occur from burns and scalds, is generally a subject of some embarrassment, when treated in the ordinary method; and, from the tardiness of the operation, is productive of much pain and inconvenience to the patient. This is more particularly the case when such injuries are inflicted on the trunk; the healing of such sores on the extremities is effected with less difficulty, as they can be placed under the influence of pressure, which cannot be so well employed to aid cures of this kind on the back, abdomen, chest, or neck; indeed, I have seen the most severe and lengthened distress arise from such injuries; the rapid growth of soft flabby granulations proving not only difficult to restrain, but retarding the skinning process, the sore pouring out large quantities of pus, and affecting the general health, so as to induce hectic fever, and even fatal consequences.

" As the object of my paper is to call the attention to that stage of the injury which is secondary, I shall only advert to recent injuries of this sort, by offering my humble tribute of approval of the plan laid down by Dr. Kentish; but as, where violent heat has been applied, notwithstanding the use of the most approved remedies, sloughing of the skin will take place, I shall take up the subject just at that stage when the sore has put on a *healthy* granulating surface. Perhaps my plan of treatment will best admit of illustration by the recital of a few cases.

" Case 1. About seven years ago, a child of J. Burge was brought to me with a sore on the back, as large as a man's hand. It was situated just below the right scapula; the surface was uneven, and the granulations delicate and soft, throwing out much pus, and bleeding on the slightest touch. I learnt that it had arisen from a burn, and had been very much in its then present state for two years, notwithstanding it had been under the care of a most respectable surgeon for some time, and had been subsequently dressed by various healing ointments, used empirically on such occasions. I determined that nothing of an unctuous character should be used, but that the edges of the sore should be touched daily with the *liq. plumbi*, applied by a camel's hair brush, and that the whole surface should be sprinkled over with flour or chalk, so as to form an artificial scab. Some portion of scab was daily broken down, the matter discharged, and more flour used, to promote the formation of a new scab. During the cure, the child wore a loose dress, like a petticoat, tied round the neck, and every thing, but the application before stated, kept as much as possible from coming in contact with the sore: by these means the ulcer was completely healed in a month.

" Case 2. Miss Hooper, a young lady about twelve years of age, was dreadfully burnt on the neck and back, from her clothes taking fire: the injury was so severe, that, for a week after the accident, her death was expected; but the constitution was supported by stimulants and opium, and at length a slough of a most frightful extent

was thrown off. For some time, calamine cerate, and an ointment prepared from oxyde of lead, were used to dress the wound : but the discharge became so considerable, the granulation so redundant, and the case attended with so much constitutional disorder, that we again had reason to fear a fatal termination. Under these unfavourable circumstances, I had recourse to the use of the *liquor plumbi*, with which the edges of the sores were daily besmeared, and wheaten flour sprinkled on the granulations, so as to encourage the formation of a scab. This plan was persevered in for a few weeks, the scab being occasionally broken down, and a new one formed in the same manner : the health soon improved, and the sore healed in half the time that I have seen required to accomplish the same object under the ordinary method of treatment.

“ Case 3. J. Ashley, a boy about fourteen years of age, had his side severely burnt from a squib taking fire in his pocket; the heat was so intense, and so long applied, that there was considerable sloughing. After that had taken place, I had recourse to the *liquor plumbi* and flour, and the progress of the cure was so rapid, that both myself and patient’s friends were perfectly satisfied with the superior efficacy of the plan of treatment.

“ I would add one remark on the treatment of scalds of the extremities, such as I have often witnessed on the feet and ankles of cooks and housemaids. When blistering has taken place, much relief is found from puncturing the blisters, and binding the limb very evenly, and rather firmly, with strips of linen spread with diachylon, on the plan recommended by the late Mr. Baynton, of Bristol, for the cure of ulcerated legs. I have observed that the dressings do not require to be removed daily; once in two days has answered with me; and if the parts have become painful, cloths, wet with cold water, have been from time to time employed with advantage, wrapped round the limb.”

About thirty years since, a shoemaker, of the name of Bowler, gained much celebrity in curing ulcers, by a plan somewhat similar to that adopted by Mr. Bush. He added a little yellow resin, in powder, to fine oatmeal, with the view of forming a strong incrustation. This plan he adopted, to produce a scab, in imitation of nature; the good effects of which he attributed to the protection of the surface against the action of the atmospheric air. When the crust was formed, he applied cold water, by means of folded soft linen. Being ignorant of the healthy appearance of an ulcer, and incapable of distinguishing healthy from unhealthy granulations, he was sometimes very unsuccessful; and the plodding surgeon of the place (Ledbury), who could not reason on the treatment, or had not the liberality to give him any credit for his novel practice, availed himself of every unfortunate case, to prejudice the neighbourhood against it; and Mr. Bowler, the most scientific of the two, in disgust, resigned his *surgical* practice, which was gratuitous, to his plodding routine opponent.

We advise Mr. Bush to be more particular in his future communications of cases, in giving the names of the medicinal articles he may have employed in their treatment. There is no such article as *liquor plumbi*. If a patient were to apply to a chemist or an apothecary for such article, he would be at a loss what to give. Does he mean the

liquor plumbi *sub-acetatis* (Goulard's extract of lead), or the liquor plumbi *sub-acetatis dilutus* (Goulard's extract of lead diluted with water), or a solution of the *acetate* of lead in water? Chemists, who prepare articles for analysing compound bodies, and philosophical experiments, keep a variety of solutions of lead, some of which, as the liquores plumbi nitratis, muriatis, et acetatis, are much too potent to apply to the edge of an ulcer. Some superficial or pedantic surgeons think it a proof of profound knowledge, to be able to give abbreviations of the Latin names of drugs. They should recollect, that those who compound their prescriptions, may not be quite so knowing as themselves. So many serious errors have occurred in dispensing medicines, that the cautious physicians and surgeons of London never abbreviate the names of the articles they prescribe; and really those who do it, may be suspected of being ignorant of the language, or acquainted only with the abbreviations technically termed dog Latin. The article employed by Mr. Bush was, no doubt, the liquor plumbi *sub-acetatis*. On what principle, or with what view, was it applied to the edges of an extensive ulceration? Being a powerful sedative, we should have supposed that it would have rather retarded than promoted the healthy process. If the edges were in a state of inflammation or irritation, which is rarely the case when the granulations are healthy, a watery solution of opium would, in our opinion, have been preferable. The late Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester, and the late Mr. Russell, of Worcester, were in the habit of sprinkling over the surface of extensive and languid ulcerations, finely powdered oak bark; and we are inclined to think, a small addition of it to flour or oatmeal, would promote the healing surface, by constringing the granulations, and keeping up a healthy secretion of pus. If the ulcer be irritable, which is generally the case when the sequel of a burn or scald, a small quantity of powdered hemlock or opium may be added.

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THERAPEUTICS, &c.  
MINERAL WATERS, &c.

In no article, natural or artificial, has poor credulous John Bull been more duped than by mineral waters, and their saline products, and by soda water. A mixture of Glauber's salt, and the Epsom salt, has been long puffed off, under the imposing name of "*chalybeate aperient*," as possessing wonderful antibilious and tonic properties, partly in consequence of containing iron, although it does not enter the composition!! The same simple combination, although made in London, has been vended also under the name of *true Cheltenham salts*, and many hundred tons have been sold at the rate of eleven hundred pounds a ton, which cost the conscientious manufacturers, or rather mechanical mixers, about *twenty-five* pounds!!! Other chemists, as they modestly term themselves, have not taken the trouble to mix the salts, but have sold the small chrystals of Glauber's salts under the name of the "*genuine Cheltenham salts*"; and, on account of the chrystals being small, they have sold them at the moderate rate of *sixteen shillings* a pound, for which they gave *three-pence*!!! These impositions we have exposed in our first volume, p. 311 and 333. Mr. Phillips, the city chemical luminary, afterwards published the results of his analysis of the Cheltenham salts (given in our third volume, p. 816), which, with our reports, so far opened the eyes of John Bull, that the trade soon ceased

to flourish. In the place of *true chalybeate aperient* (WITHOUT IRON), another *chemical* article was introduced to amuse John Bull. This was no less than a *vegetable* acid, and the carbonate of soda; which, on being dissolved in water, effervesced, and, "forming the *true* Seidlitz waters," (!!) the *discoverers*, with great propriety, gave them the attractive name of the "genuine Seidlitz powders."

This speculation, in a *German* garb, being likely to meet with royal patronage, a patent was obtained, to secure all the advantages of the *sale* to the discoverers of so valuable a purgative for John Bull's pocket.

The specification was ingeniously framed, and the publication of it raised the chemical character of England, and particularly of its medical police, in the opinion of the principal medical institutions of Europe. That the government of an enlightened country should grant a patent to a person for such a paltry composition could not indeed but excite the astonishment of the medical establishments of Russia, Austria, Germany, Italy, and France, to whom the composition of the Seidlitz water was well known.

In consequence of the ridiculous and unchemical specifications of *patent* medicines, which have been enrolled in the patent offices, and the granting of medical diplomas by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, without a previous *medical* examination, the practice of medicine in this country, is regarded on the continent, as a system of quackery.

The *celebrated*, or rather *once celebrated*, Seidlitz powders, on chemical examination, turned out to be nothing else than tartaric acid and carbonate of soda, which, on being dissolved together, occasioned an effervescence, and formed Rochelle salt, a salt which had very deservedly fallen into disuse. We say very deservedly, because it uniformly disturbs the stomach and small intestines, keeping up a grumbling noise in the large intestines for several days, and producing small watery flatulent motions. That tradesmen, styling themselves chemists, should have had the effrontery to advertise a salt formed by a *vegetable* acid as a *mineral* salt, appeared to the chemists on the continent, where the *patent* medicine trade is not known, most astonishing. John Bull was, of course, pronounced an ignoramus in chemistry.

The Seidlitz water, formed by the Seidlitz powder, and which, it is stated, it resembles *chemically* and *medicinally*, contains *two* articles; whilst the *true* water contains *only fourteen* articles, among which only one of the ingredients of the Seidlitz powders appears!! According to the analysis of Dr. Struve, a German chemist (conducted at the Spa in Germany, not the manufactory in Bond Street) the products of the true Seidlitz water were sulphate of soda, muriate of soda, sulphate of potass, carbonate of lime, sulphate of lime, phosphate of lime, sulphate of lime bas. carbonate of magnesia, sulphate of magnesia, muriate of magnesia, nitrate of magnesia, phosphate of alum bas. sulphate of strontian, silica, carbonate of iron, and carbonate of manganese. It has been said, that many of the German and French chemists have a laboratory in their brains, and that the physicians have hospitals. The former can therefore analyse natural combinations, and discover chemical phenomena, and the latter, effect cures by new remedies, or witness cures of diseases when seated at their ease in a library or closet. The sober and conscientious German chemists have certainly done as much to promote the science of chemistry as the chemists of any country in Europe; and although Dr. Struve may be one of the class, we are much inclined to question the presence of nitrate of magnesia, the sulphate of strontian, and the phosphate of alum bas. in the water. Whether these articles have been obtained on decomposing the water, every person, acquainted with ch-

mistry, must be aware that they did not exist in the native water, or in the state in which it is procured at the spring.

It would shew ignorance of chemistry to say, that a water contains, *in solution*, sulphate of magnesia, muriate of soda, sulphate of lime, muriate of potass, carbonate of magnesia, &c.; because, on dissolving those articles together in water, there would be a change of bases, and new combinations would form; for instance, the sulphuric acid of the sulphate of magnesia would combine with the soda of the muriate of soda, in fact, they would all change partners. The salts obtained from evaporation of a mineral water, or by decomposition, are therefore *new products*, and not *educts*, that is, they did not exist in such combinations in the native water. We may then ask, can an imitation of a native water be made from the results of chemical analysis, so as to contain its medicinal virtues? We are disposed to answer this question in the negative; because, in the first place, some articles are held in solution by the carbonic acid gas, which escapes on evaporation, and the article with which it was united, may form a fresh connexion; again, the sulphuretted hydrogen gas which it contains, is also dissipated, and to produce a water exactly similar to the native spring, it must of course be impregnated with it: but there is one fact, which must militate against *artificial* mineral waters; viz. although they contain four times the quantity of salts, they produce less effect on the bowels!! and a quarter of a pint of a native chalybeate spring will operate more effectually, as a general tonic, than the same quantity of the artificial chalybeate water, although it contains ten times the quantity of iron. Of all the German mineral waters, the only one which does not contain the carbonic acid gas uncombined, is the Seidlitz; and yet, on dissolving the said Seidlitz powders, there is a considerable disengagement of this gas, which generally produces, in dyspeptic and elderly subjects, a most distressing sense of distension of the stomach and intestines. The medicinal virtues of the true Seidlitz water, unquestionably reside in the salts with magnesia, potass, and iron, neither of which enter the composition of the *famous* Seidlitz powders!!! It is, indeed, highly disgraceful to the Government of an enlightened country, as a Russian chemist lately observed, to allow such a traffic to be carried on with impunity, and that, too, under the sanction of their patent; or, as the patentees state, under the sanction of His Majesty!! Is there not, said he, in England, a medical police? Oh, yes! there is a College of Physicians, who are as desirous as any set of Roman Catholics, to maintain *legitimate* medicine, and monopolize the good things; and the nostrum trade, not affecting their privileges, is a matter of total indifference to them. As to-soda water, *simple*, *double*, and *treble*, we have scarcely met with one that contains any soda!! It is only, in general, common water, mechanically impregnated with fixed air! Some makers, for conscience sake, add a little potass, and others, a little common salt!! This is a serious imposition, because it is generally prescribed to neutralise acid in the stomach, and correct the morbid secretions of the kidneys. More of the "famous, or rather infamous soda waters" of some makers, in our next.

With regard to the native mineral waters, nature has been particularly playful in Cheltenham. Here, John Bull, when hypochondriacal, is supplied with *aperient* mineral waters, of various strengths; a chalybeate water (without the aperient salts), and a sulphureous water, and all within a distance of a few yards of each other!! Here Johnny Raw, alias hypochondriacal John Bull, may derive the advantages of Harrowgate, Buxton, and Leamington; and so inexhaustible are the springs, that the visitors have the immense advantage of being supplied with salts, from the aperient waters, under twenty fine sounding names, to *any* extent, on leaving the place. The products of a million of gallons may be procured daily, without weakening the springs!! Whether any of the proprietors are indebted to the sea, for their salts or their waters, we mean to the manufactory of salts at Leamington, from which place, tons of salts have been sent to Cheltenham, we need not hazard an opinion. Let a man, *endowed* with common sense, go over the grounds in which the wells are sunk, visit the pump rooms, and judge for himself. There is, per-

haps, more quackery among a certain class of "medical practitioners" in this Cheltenham, than at any other watering place in Europe. Every invalid who visits it, must of course consult a practitioner on the spot, and every spa has a medical friend. His case, of course, is pronounced *bilious*, and Cheltenham water, *under proper regulations*, the finest medicine in the world for it. In some peculiar cases, a little blue pill, or Plummer's pills, is necessary as an auxiliary, to dislodge the enemy from its strong hold in the liver!! With them the liver is the main spring of life!! To illustrate the *advantages* of a medical advice previously to taking the water, we shall relate the case of a young lady, who was taken there for the benefit of the saline aperient water. The mother was so indiscreet as to take her to the pump-room, by the direction of a London physician, without consulting a resident physician!! This was deemed, by the lady of the boarding-house, highly improper, because a physician, at such a distance, could not properly regulate the use of the water. The lady accordingly took her daughter to a resident physician, who, after listening to her account of the indisposition of her daughter, and what she had done for her during the short time she had been at Cheltenham, exclaimed, "All wrong; all wrong; but come, come, don't be uneasy, no serious mischief is yet done; all will be right in a few days."

The physician, by way of preparing the system for the water, prescribed a pill of calomel. She had been taking calomel in London, but that was of no consequence. The next day he ordered the aperient water, at Tompson's Well, No. 3. After taking this water for four days, she was to take No. 2. This practice succeeded, inasmuch as the doctor took his fee every visit!! The following autumn, the lady took her daughter again, and followed the same prescription. On meeting the doctor, he expressed his astonishment that she had not called on him. The child was then a year older, and of course required a water of a different strength!! Nos. 1 and 3, were now applicable to her case, and this pill, instead of calomel. The result of this accidental meeting, was about ten fees to the doctor!!

Now, whoever considers that the weakest water differs from the strongest, from a scruple to half a drachm of a simple salt, in a quart, will admit that the doctor is capable of making "nice distinctions." The patient, of course, must not presume to regulate the dose by the effect on the bowels; that would be highly impolitic. He must not act in opposition to real science, or *disinterested* friendship, by increasing or diminishing the quantity, but take another sort!! It may be said, that one contains more steel than another, but in the one that contains the most, the quantity is so small, that to take a dose of it, the patient must swallow a gallon of the water!! Whether the judicious *or ignorant* use of the various springs, or the practice of rising early, observing regular hours, taking a more proper diet, and mental relaxation and amusement, have proved most beneficial to the visitors of this fashionable watering place, is a question which betrays want of intellect.

The aged, or those whose constitutions have suffered from a residence in a tropical climate, from abuse of spirituous liquors, &c. or from organic disease of an important part, as the stomach, liver, colon, &c. would act wisely to take into consideration the state of the recruiting powers of the body, before they have recourse to the daily use of a purgative water, although recommended by a physician of Cheltenham. Of these powers, chymification, chylification, sanguification, and mutation, or nutrition, are the principal. The most important of these is chymification, or conversion of food into chyme in the stomach; for if the chyme be not good, the chyle formed in the duodenum must necessarily be bad, and, in that case, the blood must be unhealthy or impure, and of course the body not being properly nourished or repaired with good materials, must be predisposed to general or local disease. If either of these powers be in a weak state, or unequal to their office, purging must materially reduce the vital powers; and to this system, which has long prevailed at Cheltenham, we have no hesitation in saying, that many thousand lives have been hurried to the grave annually.

A lady (Mrs. U.), capable of making a distinction between practical knowledge and imposture, and between *professional* and *sincere* friendship, during a long residence at Cheltenham, after going through the regular discipline of Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the aperient waters for two years, had recourse to a solution of the Epsom salt, from which she assured us she derived more benefit than from the various springs of Cheltenham, although scientifically guided by a resident physician. When she arrived to the fifth climacteric, she abandoned it for a warm vegetable aperient, similar to the one we have noticed in the 314th page of the present number.

In an article on Costiveness, in a late number, we made some remarks on the injurious effects of *saline* purgatives, especially copious draughts of a saline aperient water (artificial or native) on the brain, stomach, and intestinal canal, the truth of which we are confident every conscientious invalid, who has given them a fair trial, will not deny; and we are convinced, by the results of long experience, and we trust just observation, that the period is not far distant when this class of aperient medicines will be entirely abandoned by the medical profession, and the Cheltenham waters will share the fate of the Epsom water. We commenced this article with the intention of noticing the German mineral waters, which are artificially made by Dr. Struve at Brighton, but the heap of manuscript before us tells us that we must postpone that part till our next number.

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

VOL. X.

To NOVEMBER, 1, 1825.

No. 119.

## PHYSIC.

### TAPE WORM.

Dr. Ruggia of Naples informs us that he administered the *decoction* of the root of the pomegranate tree in a case of tape worm with complete success, the animal having been expelled in a few hours after its exhibition. The doctor's success in this case soon induced several patients with the same disease to apply to him and the practitioners in his neighbourhood, from whom the *liberal* doctor kept his remedy a secret, to make inquiry as to his practice. At length a servant whom the doctor employed to bring the pomegranate root from the country, betrayed his master, and the secret became divulged to his great annoyance. It has in consequence been prescribed with the same success by the leading physicians of Naples. Dr. Milne, who has given it an extensive trial, has not met with an instance of failure. The following is the doctor's direction for administering this remedy:

Simmer two ounces of the fresh root, thinly sliced, in a pint and a half of water till reduced to a pint, and then strain off the liquor. Of this, one third part is to be given early in the morning, and another third every two hours till the whole is taken. If this quantity fail to expel the worm, the decoction is to be repeated in the same manner the following day, and so on till it succeeds. Some physicians of Naples make use of the bark of the root, but Dr. Milne states he has not found it superior to the root. About seven years since we noticed the root of the pomegranate tree as a remedy for tape worm in an original communication from a colonel in India. It appears to have been as successful in expelling this parasite as the oil of turpentine, and is unquestionably a more safe and pleasant remedy. The root should be employed in a recent state, or it should be very carefully dried.

### ST. ANTHONY'S FIRE (ERYSIPelas.)

Mr. Cox has communicated to the profession a case of St. Anthony's fire, where life, according to his account, was in great danger from inflammation or inflammatory excitement of the brain, in which he conceives the oil of turpentine had a very beneficial effect. The patient, a female, was twenty-one years of age. The disease occupied the scalp, face, and breast, and at first was attended with restlessness and delirium, which were soon followed by lethargy and insensibility. After remaining five days in a state of insensibility, Dr. Copland, of turpentine notoriety, prescribed oil of turpentine, both by the mouth and clysterwise !!

The "turpentine," says Mr. Cox, "procured several offensive stools. The pulse then lost some of its rapidity, and the lethargy was rendered less profound. The medicine was repeated for some days, and the patient was gradually restored to convalescence, and ultimately to sound health."

This cure is attributed by Mr. Cox, and of course by Dr. Copland, solely to some peculiar operation of the oil of turpentine, and is no

doubt published by Dr. Copland to corroborate his turpentine system. We may venture to say there is not an impartial medical man of any experience, and capable of observation, who will not attribute the beneficial effects of the composition prescribed by Dr. Copland, more to the aperient effect of the castor oil than to the turpentine. Indeed we may venture to say, without the addition of castor oil, the turpentine introduced into the stomach and rectum would probably have increased the febrile state of the constitution. We may be allowed to ask Dr. Copland or his friend Cox, on what principle, or with what view he administered so powerful a stimulus as that of oil of turpentine in a case of erysipelas, evidently attended with inflammatory excitement of the brain, a quick pulse, increased temperature of the body, &c.? The turpentine might have promoted the operation of the castor oil, but a little peppermint water would have answered the purpose. The case is highly important to the public in general, inasmuch as it shews how far facts may be twisted and turned to support a favourite theory. An eminent Scotch lecturer some time since emphatically observed to his pupils, "when you meet with 'medical facts' in theoretical works, always read 'medical lies.'" We are not so far insensible of the merits of Dr. Copland's reviews of medical works or of his book on physiology, as to apply this remark to Dr. Copland's reports of the efficacy of turpentine, but we recommend young practitioners to keep it in mind when they read modern works, and especially the publication of cures by the medical men of France and Germany.

#### POISONING BY FOXGLOVE.

GENTLEMEN,—In the 117th number of the Gazette of Health, p. 280, I observe a case under the head of "Poisoning by Foxglove," by Mr. Willet, of Chepstow, in which he describes the symptoms of an over dose to be "extreme and alarming debility;" but let me ask, did it not produce also vomiting or purging? If it did not, (which I conclude, by no mention being made of it,) it cannot be considered as a case of poisoning, but merely the effects of the too free exhibition of the medicine: this being the case, the brandy and aromatic confection were well calculated to hasten the restoration of lost energy; but the foxglove being discontinued, the patient would, in all probability, have recovered without the assistance of medicine; in confirmation of the probability of which, the two following cases will exemplify.

When serving the first part of my apprenticeship to a respectable surgeon-apothecary in Wales, the following prescription was handed me by a farmer, who had for some months laboured under lientery, which produced great debility, and he was then affected with general anasarca.

Take of the dried leaves of Foxglove, four ounces;

Pure Water, a pint and a half. Boil gently till reduced to a pint.

Of the above decoction, take twelve ounces;

Sweet Spirit of Nitre, two ounces;

Acetate of Potass, one ounce. Mix. Three table-spoonsful to be taken every eight hours.

Seeing the enormous strength of the medicine, I told him I could not think of dispensing it, as I conceived it must terminate his existence; in consequence of which, he took it to a chemist's where the medicine was prepared; but he was recommended not to take it as ordered, but begin with two tea-spoonsful; which advice the man followed, and even in this dose, when he had taken it twice, he became nauseated, which was quickly succeeded by violent vomiting and purging, together with delirium, which continued more or less for two days; after which he very slowly recovered from its effects; but his dropsical symptoms were not at all relieved. This man lived many miles from a medical practitioner, in the "Wilde of Wales," and had no medicine whatever for these very urgent symptoms. Hughes, at fifty, had had in his youth frequent attacks of inflammation of the lungs, but had been free from any complaint until the present time, when he applied at our dispensary with acute pain in the chest upon full inspiration and coughing, quick and hard pulse with considerable thirst: he lost about twenty ounces of blood, and had a blister applied to the chest. In a month he applied again; the bleeding and blister had produced great relief, but the inflammation continued in a chronic form; he had now pain on inspiration, and the pulse continued frequent but small. A phial of tincture of foxglove was given him, with direction to take ten drops three times a day, in which dose he continued it for about a week, and finding no relief, ventured upon twenty drops at each dose; in a few days after, he took thirty drops at the same intervals. At this time, his cough became softer, with less obstruction from mucus; here he should have stopped; but, being still dissatisfied, and determined to try the medicine to its full extent, he one morning took a tea-spoonful, and repeated it at noon; soon after this, he was affected with giddiness and nausea, which were quickly succeeded by desire to vomit, and violent reachings with stupor supervened; he was so ill that he was unable to leave his bed for three days, after which he gradually regained strength, and has ever since been free from any inflammatory affection of the lungs. Neither of these cases had any assistance whatever, save the course of nature, which in these instances was sufficient. I therefore think it a just conclusion, that Mr. Willet's case should not come under the denomination of "Poisoning." I trust, that through the medium of your excellent work this may appear, not with any malevolent intention to Mr. W., but from a regard to truth. Allow me, gentlemen, to subscribe myself,

Your's, respectfully,

To the Editors of the Gazette of Health.

JORWORTH.

Isle of Wight, Sept. 15, 1825.

#### CROUP.

Some members of the medical profession of this country seem to vie with each other in broaching doctrines to attract public notice, or to disgust the public with regular and irregular medicine. One party is endeavouring to prove by misrepresentation of facts and subtle sophistry, that a disease considered by the ancients contagious (plague), is not contagious, while another is attempting to prove that croup, which was considered by the ancients as not contagious, is

contagious !! That Maclean should fancy that the plague is not contagious, does not surprise us; but that any sane person should pay the least attention to such a flighty idea, really does surprise us. That Dr. Gregory, a lecturer on the theory and practice of physic, should attempt to prove that croup is contagious, is also a matter of surprise. The disease is often endemic and epidemic, and probably often hereditary in some counties of England; but that it communicated by contagion or infection, we think no practitioner will admit. It has been said that pulmonary consumption is infectious, because a person was affected with it after attending on or sleeping with a consumptive patient; but in a country where the disease is so common as in this island, surely such an occurrence cannot be so extraordinary as to give the idea of its being infectious. We hope Dr. Gregory will clearly point out to his pupils the difference between contagious, infectious, epidemic, endemic, and sporadic diseases.

### FLUOR ALBUS.

A physician who pays particular attention to the diseases of females, informs us that he has found the following mixture uniformly successful in the cure of Fluor Albus in leucophlegmatic habits and elderly subjects :

Take of Tincture of Cubeb,

of Rhubarb Root, of each 6 drachms;

Infusion of Buchu, 8 ounces.—Mix.

Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a-day.

He paid attention to the state of the intestines, and when not properly relieved, he prescribed aperient pills, composed of extract of rhubarb and jalap with a little ginger powder. When there were symptoms of visceral obstruction, he also prescribed the blue pill, in the dose of four grains at bed-time every other night for a fortnight.

### TIC DOULOUREUX.

Mr. Wickenden, an eminent surgeon of Birmingham, has communicated to Mr. Hutchinson, of Southwell, the three following cases of this dreadful disease, which were cured by the carbonate of iron, as directed by Mr. Hutchinson.

“ Mrs. Carless, aged sixty-four, Gough-street, Birmingham, during two years has been gradually affected with severe pain in her face. On the 16th of June, 1823, its severity suddenly increased, and, with a few minutes’ intermission, continued four days. From her description of the affected parts, the disease appeared to be confined to the ophthalmic branch of the fifth pair of nerves. Calomel purges, with senna and salts, and leeches to the face, were prescribed; afterwards an emetic, succeeded by large doses of opium, two grains of which were given every hour, for six or eight hours, without affording relief. She then took one drachm of the subcarbonate of iron every six hours, and felt perfectly relieved after the sixth dose; and has continued completely free from the disease up to this, the 4th of November 1823.

“ In further illustration of this very satisfactory case, it may be permitted to remark, that this lady suffered a pain of the most excruciating kind, concentrated in the sub-orbital nerve of the right side of the face. This was aggravated upon the slightest movement, and so fearful was she of touching it, that her face had remained unwashed for weeks together. Of course, eating at all times much increased it; and latterly she had eaten with a wooden spoon, a metal one, if touching the jaw, causing such extreme aggravation of the pain.

"Mr. Wickenden is a practitioner whose observation is too correct to render a remark of his of no value. He observes, that formerly he used to give doses of five grains of the iron, but that he never found any effect until he employed the larger quantities now generally adopted.

"In the second case drawn up by Mr. Wickenden, the pain was seated in the upper lip, accompanied with frequent convulsive twitches, and was completely cured by drachm doses of the carbonate of iron. The pain in this patient frequently returned, and was as frequently relieved by the ferri subcarbon.

"The third case was remaked by most severe pain in one side of the head, particularly behind the ear, and recurring very frequently in the day. After correcting the digestive organs, without affording any relief, the subcarbonate of iron, in drachm doses, perfectly removed the disease.

Mr. Blackett, a scientific and experienced surgeon of London, has published a few cases of Tic Douloureux, in which full doses of the sulphate of zinc, with and without opium, succeeded.

### DISEASES OF THE CHEST.

Professor Racamier of Paris, in a late Clinical lecture, stated that a hospital of Paris (Hotel Dieu) presented a disease which had hitherto escaped the notice of practitioners, viz. inflammation of the small ramifications of the bronchiæ. He attributed its non-discovery to its being taken for catarrhal inflammation of the large air tubes of the lungs, and asthma, from which he says it differs in preventing the decarbonization or oxygination of the blood. We have frequently in our first volume, when speaking of cough and chronic inflammation of the membrane lining the trachea and bronchiæ, noticed the inflammation of the *bronchial ramifications*, and in such cases recommended the use of an emetic to compress the lungs by the diaphragm and other muscles brought into action during the operation, so as to force the mucus collected in the small ramifications into the large ones to be expectorated. Dr. Good notices the inflammation of the small ramifications in his Nosology published five years ago. He says, under the head of *eroup*, the disease often extends through the whole range of the air vessels, as far as the eye of the anatomist can trace them.

### TYPHUS.

We are told, a man cannot be jealous of his wife unless he entertains a bad opinion of her virtue, or is convinced of some imperfection in himself. When medical men become jealous of each other, the inference is, they are miserably deficient in science, or that their predominating passion is a love of lucre. In no place in this country has professional jealousy existed in a higher degree for the last century than in Worcester. The late Dr. Johnstone, by means of an overbearing pomposity of manners, his dogmatic opinions, the imposing appearance of his wig, and the terrific motion of his gold-headed cane, kept the profession of Worcester in a state of subjection. The physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, obeyed his mandates, and trembled at his elevated voice or shake of the head. About six or eight years ago, Dr. Wilson, now Dr. Wilson Philip, or Dr. Wilson Philip Philip Wilson, in conjunction with some medical gentleman of Worcester, formed a society to raise, as they supposed, the respectability of the medical profession of the city!! The grand object of this combination was

to agree among themselves, that the different members of the profession, denominated physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, should "stick to their own departments." The physician was not to bleed a patient, not even in a case of impending apoplexy, although immediate abstraction of blood might be necessary to keep off a fatal disease!!! One physician, of great practical knowledge, was dismissed the society, because he presumed, to the "great injury" of a surgeon, to bleed a patient in a case in which the delay of a few minutes would have endangered life. Dr. Dods, highly to his credit as a man of science, exposed, in the city papers, the principle on which this association was formed, as militating against the interest of the public and the progress of the healing art. Dr. Wilson Philip made a bold attempt to defend it, but Dr. Dods was not to be intimidated. He replied, and by common-sense reasoning so completely refuted the ridiculous opinions of Dr. Philip, that the vanquished Doctor "fled the field," and commenced a medical career in the metropolis, with a no less tremendous instrument than a *Practical Treatise on Indigestion and its consequences*. The magnanimous flight of the Doctor, and the death of Dr. Woodyatt, the then leading physician, made a great opening for the young physicians, Drs. Hastings, Malden, and Lewis, who, to obtain a lead, made a grand exhibition of gigs, &c. to attract the attention of the wondering inhabitants of Worcester!! The gigs and highly decorated horses and footmen were driven with such rapidity through the streets, that "merciless death" was never before so closely pursued. When these gentlemen met, they were extremely polite to each other; but when one was called in to the patient of another, he was never backward in insinuating by inuendoes, expression of countenance, or shrug of the shoulders, that his friend had taken an erroneous view of the case. This *liberal* spirit, which has existed among the medical tribe of Worcester from time immemorial, continues in full force. A few weeks since, Mr. Carden, a surgeon of Worcester, attended a young lady affected with fever. The surgeon pronounced the disease *typhus*, and accordingly treated it agreeably to the system of the great Cullen, a practice which, we firmly believe, has proved more generally successful than the depleting system of Bateman, Armstrong, and others. Although the patient was going on well, the parents thought proper to call in the aid of a physician. Dr. Walden was therefore requested to see her. After the usual ceremony of feeling the pulse, &c. &c. &c. &c., the Doctor ventured to differ in opinion with Mr. Carden. The physician's opinion, having more weight with the parents than that of a surgeon, the patient was placed under his care. An opposite treatment was adopted, but alas, alas! the unfortunate patient derived no advantage from the consultation! The affection of the head, &c. increasing, Mr. Carden, who continued his friendly visits, urged a consultation. The parents, anxious to do their duty to their afflicted daughter, acquiesced; the next question was, who was capable to decide when such great authorities disagreed. Dr. Hastings and Dr. Lewis were too young, and, of course, too inexperienced to determine the question on which a valuable life was depending, in opposition to the opinion of Dr. Walden or of

Mr. Carden ; and as to Dr. Dods, he having frustrated the politic plans of the faculty "associated at Worcester," it would be highly impolitic to call him in. The Doctor, of course, must be kept in the back ground. After some hesitation, the afflicted parents resolved to send for Dr. Johnstone, of Birmingham. The Doctor paid immediate attention to the summons ; and, after going through the chamber ceremony, he manfully gave his real opinion, that the disease was, as stated by Mr. Carden, *typhus fever*, and he prescribed accordingly. During all this controversy, to give it the most inoffensive name, the disease continued its devastation on the constitution, so that in a few days the soul quitted its material tenement for another, and no doubt for a better world!!! Her head was opened in the presence of several medical gentlemen, but the morbid appearances the brain, &c. exhibited, have not transpired. It is said, that they confirmed the opinion Mr. Carden had given. If this be a fact, we hope Mr. Carden will publish the *whole case* ; for, divided as the profession is respecting the treatment of *typhus fever*, the publication of such a case would, probably, provoke a discussion that might put the question of treatment at rest, for the advantage of millions of our fellow-creatures. Think of this immense benefit to poor humanity, good Mr. Carden, and, be not deterred from doing the duty of a true christian, who knows not fear, and is incapable of receiving false feelings. The opposite opinions which have lately been published respecting the treatment of a disease (*typhus*) of common occurrence, is sufficient to disgust the public with medicine altogether, and to induce the person blessed with common sense to exclaim :

Let Galen moulder on the shelf,  
I'll be physician to myself.

When such opposite opinions are broached by men of experience, as to the treatment of a malady, young physicians would act wisely and conscientiously by adopting a medium course. In treating *typhus fever*, we would say, attend to local irritation and congestion, and the state of the intestinal canal and skin. If there be local congestion or local irritation, without *general plethora*, we would recommend a derivative treatment, by local stimulation, as blisters, sinapisms, &c. to another part, in preference to local bleeding. Instead of diaphoretics, which act by nauseating the skin, we would produce evaporation from the surface, and endeavour to provoke the functions of the skin, by sponging the whole surface of the body with water, or vinegar and water. The termination of *typhus fever*, in our humble opinion, depending more on the state of the brain than any other part of the body, we would direct our attention to the head and extremities, keeping the former cool by cold applications, and the latter warm by warm fomentations or cataplasms. By this medium treatment, we have no hesitation in saying, more lives may be saved in cases of *typhus fever*, either by the depleting or stimulating treatment. Such is the state of medicine in Worcester, that we should be glad to hear that either Dr. Johnstone, the Fellow of the College of Physicians of London, or Dr. Johnstone, the Licentiate of the said College, (brothers,) had taken up his residence in this city. We should certainly give the preference to the *Licentiate*, because he is a

graduate of Edinburgh, the first *medical* University in Europe, a gentleman *practically* acquainted with all the branches of medicine. In this wish, we confess, we are somewhat interested, having some relations living in the neighbourhood *near* Worcester, and many friends *in* it, for whom we have a great esteem. We can, however, place implicit confidence in the opinion of Dr. Dods.

There is one fact which, in our opinion, is strong evidence of a considerable diminution of the vital powers in typhus, viz. the sloughing of the true skin and cellular membrane under it, after the application of a blister, and this takes place even in the first stage of the fever.

#### MEDICAL AND OTHER HINTS TO TRAVELLERS.

From Mr. Churchill, of Leicester-square, we have received a copy of a small work (12mo. p. 120) just published by him, under the title of "*Useful Hints to Persons going to, or already arrived in, South America, and to Military Men or Merchants bound to the East or West Indies, or any other tropical Climate.*" The work is divided into 36 sections. The first embraces some good general hints for the preservation of health in a tropical climate;—the 2d, the effects of atmosphere;—the 3d, local and predisposing causes of disease;—the 4th, tropical disorders;—the 5th, instructions to avert fatal consequences;—the 6th, remarks on perspiration;—the 7th, miasma;—the 8th, contagion;—the 9th, dress;—the 10th, food;—the 11th, sleep;—the 12th, exercise;—the 13th, bathing;—the 14th, the advantage of cheerfulness;—the 15th, general remarks on illness;—the 16th, prickly heat;—the 17th, yellow remittent fever;—the 18th, intermittent fever;—the 19th, cholera morbus;—the 20th, dysentery;—the 21st, inflammation of the bowels;—the 22d, inflammation of the liver;—the 23d, *coup de soleil*, or sun stroke;—the 24th, general remarks on the West Indies;—the 25th, British Africa, South America; the 26th, boat travelling in rivers; the 27th, an enumeration of the articles with which a traveller to a tropical climate should be supplied;—the 28th, observations on the mining districts of Mexico, &c.;—the 29th, casualties, as cuts and other wounds, bruises, suspended animation from drowning, carbonic acid gas, &c.;—the 30th, infectious atmosphere of apartments;—the 31st, rheumatism;—the 32d, accidental poisoning by arsenic, corrosive sublimate, verdigris, sugar of lead, and opium;—the 33d, means of counteracting the fatal effects of different poisons;—the 34th, poisons from reptiles;—the 35th, memoranda respecting the properties and proportions of medicines necessary for a voyage;—and lastly, a list of respectable tradesmen, who are accustomed to the outfit, and accommodation of persons equipping themselves from tropical countries;—to which list we may add the names of Mr. Thompson, of Long-acre, for portable bedsteads, canteens, cases of cooking apparatus, &c. &c., and Mr. Thomas Baker, 24, Bedford-street, Covent-garden, for wearing apparel and military accoutrements, &c. &c. The work was clearly written by a gentleman practically acquainted with all the subjects it embraces, and will no doubt prove a very useful, as well as entertaining companion, to travellers to South America, the East and West Indies, and other tropical climates.

## SURGERY.

## OF THE STOOP.

In consequence of a portion of the muscles of one side of the back being more exercised during infancy and youth than the corresponding one on the other side, very few females in the higher circles of life are entirely free from some distortion or curvature of the upper part of the spine, occasioning an elevation of one shoulder, generally the right, and an apparent difference in the prominence of the breast on the other side. The first symptom of distortion, or curvature, of the upper portion of the spine, is a bending forward of the head and chest, termed a stoop. In some females this is sometimes constitutional, from the length of the neck, and relaxation of the muscles, which are engaged in supporting the upper part of the spine and head; but even in such case in young subjects, it will, if neglected, occasion curvature or distortion, so as to render mechanical treatment necessary to check or remove it, that will act injuriously on the general health. The management of the stoop being generally undertaken by parents, or left to governesses, Mr. Shaw (who, Mr. Charles Bell informs us, is his brother-in-law) has been induced to inquire into the means employed for its cure; the result of which has satisfied him, that the common treatment is not only ineffectual, but when distortion or curvature has commenced, or about to take place, tends to increase the mischief. As this is a very important subject, both in a professional and unprofessional point of view, we shall give Mr. Shaw's account of it in detail, and as we are desirous that he should "extend his reputation, by shewing himself to be not only an excellent anatomist, but capable of forming a judicious opinion on matters of practice" we shall endeavour, in rendering it intelligible to our non-medical readers, to give it, as nearly as possible, in his own language.

"When the chest and the head fall forward, the most common method of trying to correct the stoop, is to put on some instrument by which the shoulders and the head are held back. To operate upon the shoulders, the common back-collar is applied; and to hold back the head, a ribband is brought over the forehead, and fastened to the collar. While these instruments are kept on, the figure looks straight, though stiff and constrained; but immediately on being removed, both the head and the shoulders fall more forward than before their application. Many examples of the bad effect of artificially supporting the head might be offered. The following example, although it is to be observed in the figure of a horse, is very demonstrative. When the rein (called the bearing rein) by which the head of a carriage-horse is reared up, with the intention of giving him a showy figure, is loosened, the head immediately falls forward, and the neck, instead of having the fine arch that is so much admired, droops between the shoulders." (Query, is not the position in a horse unnatural, or is not the falling forward

\* Extract from Mr. Charles Bell's remarks on Mr. Shaw, in his work on Stricture !!

of the head on loosing the bearing-rein the consequence of fatigue?) "Looking to this effect," proceeds Mr. Shaw, "we should at first be inclined to condemn the practice followed by horse-dealers, of reining up the head of a young horse in the stable, by means of the apparatus called the dumb-jockey. But on examining into this mode of fixing the head, it will be found to operate on a very different principle from the bearing-rein. Instead of a simple bit, such as the horse in harness can lean his head upon without suffering any pain, a bit calculated to tease and fret is put into the young horse's mouth. To relieve himself from the irritation produced by this, and which is increased by the constant pull of the elastic piece of iron to which the reign is fastened, he curls up his neck, and thus brings all the muscles of the back of the neck into strong action, instead of allowing their power to be superseded by the artificial support afforded by the bearing-rein to the horse in harness\*. Many different contrivances, but all acting nearly on the same principle as the bearing-rein, have been proposed as means for obliging a girl to keep her head erect.

"There is one mode," says Mr. Shaw, "which, to a person ignorant of anatomy, seems to be particularly well adapted for this purpose; but it is, in fact, more objectionable than the plan of tying the head back with a ribband. A piece of lead of some pounds weight is slung over the back, in such a way that it must be supported by a ribband put around the head. Although this contrivance prevents the head for a time from falling forwards, its bad effects may be demonstrated. When the weight is on, the muscles of the back of the spine are passive, while those on the fore part of the neck are necessarily brought into action, to prevent the head from being pulled too far back; and this is easily proved: if we put the fingers on the sternal portions of the sterno-cleido muscle, which, with the small muscles on the fore part of the throat, pull the head forwards, we shall feel them tense and in action; and to show still further the increased activity of the muscles on the fore part, and the passive condition of those of the back, we have only to raise the weight when the girl is not aware of our doing so, the head will then be immediately poked forwards."

Speaking of an ingenious piece of mechanism for keeping the head back, by producing the same effect as the weight suspended by the ribband, recommended by Mr. Bampfield, who has paid particular attention to irregularities in the spinal bones, Mr. Shaw observes, "it is scarcely necessary to add, that the objections made

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\* "When the Russians wish to give a horse high action in trotting, they accustom him while young to wear very heavy shoes on the fore feet. We can now, perhaps, understand how this produces the desired effect. The resistance to be overcome necessarily increases the strength of certain muscles; and hence when shoes of the common size are put on, the horse will lift his feet higher than one which has not been subjected to this discipline. Since writing this, I have been told, that opera dancers practise with lead weights on their shoes."

to the use of the weight, on the ground of the anterior muscles being excited by it, while those of the back of the neck are passive, 'are equally applicable to it.' The muscles being in a state of relaxation or debility, they are surely more likely to recover their tone when kept in a state of contraction. As to the idea of antagonist muscles being brought into action by this treatment, there is more of anatomical show than truth in it. 'We have,' says Mr. Shaw, 'many opportunities of observing the incorrectness of the principle on which all similar plans for the cure of a stoop have been founded. For instance, porters, who carry burthens on the back by the assistance of a band round the forehead, always stoop, while those who carry baskets before them, suspended by a band round the back of the neck, are peculiarly erect. But the most remarkable example of the effect from the head being pulled back by a weight hung behind, is the condition of the women who carry salt in the streets of Edinburgh; for they may be recognized as much by their miserable Sardonic grin, which is caused by the constant excitement of the platysma myoides muscle, as by their stoop.'

'Such results may, perhaps, be thought scarcely worthy of notice: but the very worst consequences may ensue from any system of treatment where a constant resistance to the muscles of the fore part of the neck is kept up. A gentleman had for many years worn one of the collars invented by Mr. Chester. By using this machine, two very bad effects were produced; the muscles of the back were so weakened, as to be rendered incapable of supporting the vertebral column, while those in the fore part of the neck were so disproportionately increased in strength, by the constant resistance opposed to them by the strap passing from the suspending rod under the chin, that, whenever the strap was loosened, the chin was forcibly drawn towards the chest. As the muscles of the back part of the neck did not offer any counteracting resistance, the windpipe was now pressed down, or almost doubled on itself. As soon as this took place (and it was almost immediate on the attempt to sit up without the collar), the patient was seized with such a sense of suffocation, as to be obliged to throw himself on his back. As he was able to breathe with ease while he lay on his back, his advisers were led farther into error, and believed that it was the weight of his head which pressed down the windpipe. To counteract this pressure, various contrivances had been proposed to support the head. Indeed, the patient himself was so convinced, from what he had heard, that it was the weight of the head which pressed down the windpipe, and so alarmed had he become from the certainty of having a fit of suffocation, when the head was left unsupported, that I had much difficulty in persuading him to believe that, if the head could be made heavier, the sense of suffocation would be relieved. I at length induced him, although he submitted with great dread of the consequence, to allow me to place about fourteen pounds of shot on the top of his head. He was very much alarmed; but it was highly gratifying to witness his surprise and pleasure, on finding that, instead of his head being weighed down, he could support it, and could breathe with ease while in the upright posture. The prin-

ciple on which I proceeded was this :—the muscles of the back part of the neck had been brought into such a state, that their ordinary stimulus was not sufficient to excite them to the action necessary to counteract the efforts of those on the fore part of the neck, which had been evidently increased in strength. The placing a weight on a certain spot on the head, formed an additional stimulus to the muscles of the back part of the neck ; a fact which the reader may prove by an experiment on himself."

" By proceeding on this principle, by combining a variety of exercises, and by gradually diminishing the weight carried on the head, I had very soon the pleasure of seeing my patient walking and sitting in a state of great comfort, without being obliged to use any artificial support." (Lege et crede was a favourite motto of the late Dr. Solomon, of Liverpool.) " I have since," continues Mr. Shaw, " used nearly the same means, and with considerable success, in the case of a patient who was suffering from a paralytic affection of some of the muscles of the back part of the neck. I wish I had thought of it while attending a lady who had a *very peculiar* nervous affection, which gave her the feeling of being about to shake her head off. It is well known that instruments are made to support almost the whole weight of the head and shoulders, by the strap which passes under the chin. It must also have been observed, that the wearer very frequently pushes down the head against the chin-strap. In this way, the muscles on the fore part necessarily become stronger, while those of the back, being deprived of their natural stimulus to action, in consequence of the rod superseding their office, become diminished in power. Even were there no change in the degree of strength in the muscles on the fore part, the head would naturally fall, if the support afforded by the chin-strap were removed ; but, as these muscles are increased in power, while those of the back are diminished, the head must not only fall, but even be pulled down.

" However, although the collars and the lead weight, as they are *generally* used, are not only ineffectual, but even hurtful, they may *occasionally* be useful in keeping the head in a certain position, after it has been brought to it by such exercises as tend to strengthen those muscles of the back, which support the shoulders and head. But so completely do I differ from the opinions commonly entertained as to the means of counteracting an *habitual* stoop, that I would *almost* recommend the *position of a tailor sitting on his shop-board*, as *MORE* advantageous than the system generally followed." This " at first," Mr. Shaw admits, " appears *ridiculous* ;" but, says he, the *manner* in which a tailor holds his body when he walks, proves that there is *something* in his habits which tends to the correction of a stoop ; for he is quite a caricature of a strutting erect figure, especially in the way he bends *in his loins* and carries his head !! (graceful female attitude in the eye of an anatomist). " The peculiarity of the tailor's gait proceeds," says Mr. Shaw, " in a certain degree from the *bent* position in which he sits ; but this explanation is not *at first* satisfactory, since it may be observed, that other tradesmen, who also stoop while at work, generally have their head inclined forwards, and have also a distinct and habitual bend in the

neck ; such, especially, is the condition of persons who sit at a table and stoop forwards, as watchmakers, engravers, &c. It is not difficult to explain the cause of the difference, and the inquiry will assist in directing us to the principles which we ought to recollect in our operations upon the spine."

"In the sitting position of the tailor, the head hangs so low, and so complete an arch is formed between it and the pelvis, that the muscles of the spine are called into strong action to support the head; the necessary consequence of this is, that these muscles become unnaturally strong, or at least so strong as to predominate over those by which the spine is pulled forward. But the bent position is not the only cause of increase in the strength of the muscles ; for it depends also on the exercise given by frequently jerking the head backwards. In those who stoop from the middle of the body, as in writing or working at a table, the muscles of the spine are not called into action : for while the head is in this position, it rests or is supported by the ligament of the neck. The ligament being thus kept constantly on the stretch, becomes lengthened, instead of being made more contractile, as muscles would be : and hence the stoop is increased. When this is combined with the consequences of the want of muscular action, the deeper ligaments which bind the upper vertebrae, gradually yield : if the operation of the causes continues for a certain time, the bones and cartilages themselves become altered in shape, and consequently an almost irremediable stoop is produced."

"This view derives confirmation from what may be observed in the shape of the tailors in some parts of Germany, who, instead of having the erect figures of London tailors, are quite bent. On inquiring into the cause, I found that, instead of sitting as tailors do in this country, a hole is cut in the table, and a seat is placed within it ; so that their position, while working, becomes nearly the same as that of persons who sit at a table."

"It may, perhaps, be objected that labourers, and especially the vine-dressers in France, are remarkable for the complete arch which their body forms, although they bend while at work as much as the tailor does. This may also be explained ; for, in the labourer the bend is produced by the pelvis rolling on the head of the thigh-bones, while, in a person sitting as a tailor, the pelvis continues nearly fixed, and the bend is in the vertebrae on the pelvis."

That the muscles of the back during the sitting posture of a tailor, when the head hangs so low as to form a complete arch between it and the pelvis, should be so unnaturally strong as to predominate over those by which the spine is pulled forwards, is a kind of physiological, or mechano-anatomical logic, that surpasses our comprehension. A man of common understanding would have supposed, from the position, that the reverse was the case, and would attribute the arch form of the trunk to the predominating power of the muscles, which draw it forward. It is the first time we have heard of muscles being strengthened by inactivity or indolence. The muscles of the back of tailors are thin and relaxed, whilst those of the fore part of the body, especially the abdominal and the pectoral, are enlarged and firm. The muscles of the upper extremities

are also plump and firm, whilst those of the lower extremities, from the want of exercise, are small and flabby, and often to such a degree, as to be scarcely under the influence of the will; and all tailors who regularly work on the shop-board, find it a great labour to walk; and it is the extra-exertion they make to bring the muscles of the lower extremities into action, which gives them the gait peculiar to working tailors. The sitting position of the tailor has a great effect on the formation of the pelvis, when a person takes to it during the period of youth. The upper part is considerably enlarged, whilst the lower aperture is diminished; and these alterations affecting the positions of the thigh-bones, are the principal cause "of the *strutting* erect figure in the way he bends in his loins and carries his head." A working blacksmith exhibits stronger muscles of the chest, belly and upper arms, than the working tailor, but those of his legs are of the same flabby character, and he has nearly as much exertion to bring them into action in walking. The opera-dancer, or the person who is in the habit of walking, exhibits strong plump muscles of the legs, whilst those of the arms are generally flabby and thin. As to the idea of the head being supported by the ligament of the neck in those "who stoop from the middle of the body, as in writing or working at a table," it is not only on first sight ridiculous, but also on close anatomical examination. It is true, the muscles of the back are *not* brought into action, but they are certainly as much so as in the sitting position of the tailor. In both the muscles are relaxed: as a native of Scotland, he should have known, that graceful bowing, for which his countrymen are so justly celebrated, approaches very nearly to the sitting position of the tailor; and the stoop from the middle of the body at a table, is effected not by putting "the pulling down muscles" of the front into action, but by relaxing those of the back.

"The erect figure of the Turk," says Mr. Shaw, "perhaps, comes from the manner of sitting which is common among Eastern nations; but the *heavy* turban, and the spice-box slung from the back of the neck, may account in a great measure for the fine figures of the Turkish Jews who frequent the streets of London." How are we then to account for the bad figure of the Jews, male and female, who carry oranges, lemons, and other articles, which are also suspended from the back of the neck? "We may even take the shoemaker," proceeds Mr. S., "as an example of the effect of a particular manner of sitting, and of frequently using the muscles of the shoulders. He is also a *little* in caricature, but he carries himself better than the tailor, and the cause is obvious. The tailor's figure is very erect, but the right shoulder is generally a little higher or larger than the left, from the constant exercise given to the right arm, *while the left rests upon the knee*: this inequality of the shoulder, is not observed in the shoemaker, because he not only uses both arms equally, but the muscles by which the blade-bones are supported become so strong by the habit of jerking back his elbows while he works, that his shoulders always appear more braced back than those of any other class of persons: indeed, so characteristic are the figures of tailors and shoemakers, that they,

may be easily distinguished in a crowd." Now the jerk in sewing is somewhat similar, and the difference in the gait arises from the one making more use of his legs than the other.

" I have mentioned these circumstances," observes Mr. S., " because they afford *familiar* examples of the principles on which we ought to proceed in endeavouring to correct deformities; but it would be ridiculous to propose the position either of the tailor or of the shoe-maker, as the best adapted to correct a stoop or falling forward of the shoulders (pretty positions for young ladies !!) though, in very young patients, I have found it expedient to put all their play-things on the ground, and to recommend such games as will induce them, while sitting, to bend the body and raise the head alternately. In patients farther advanced, much benefit has been derived from the use of an instrument which was planned with the intention of bringing the muscles of the back part of the neck into action. I have since simplified it very much, and contrived to fix it to the back of a chair, so that its use is attended with scarcely any inconvenience or annoyance to the patient. This contrivance is useful not only in strengthening the muscles of the back, but when combined with a proper support, it admits of a young lady writing, drawing, or playing on the piano-forte, without any risk of increasing the lateral curvature of the spine."

After the sweeping condemnation of Mr. Chester's instrument to support the head and spine, we certainly did not expect to meet with such inconsistency as a recommendation of mechanical support, which acts exactly on the same principle, viz. that of supporting the spine. The general condemnation of Mr. Chester's machine evinces something like ignorance of the different conditions of the bones of the spine in cases of distortion or curvature. When the cause is deficiency of ossific matter or softness of bones, with relaxation of ligaments, the propriety of supporting the head and spine by means of an instrument, no surgeon of experience will deny; but when the curvature or distortion is the consequence of caries or of an ulcerative process, the only favourable termination that can be expected is ankylosis, or union of the affected bones, which would be prevented by the use of an instrument to keep the spine extended, as that recommended by Mr. Shaw or by Mr. Chester. To the treatment of children by such amusement as will induce them " to bend their bodies and raise their heads alternately," recommended by Mr. Shaw, we would add such as would exercise their arms in equal degree. The absurd fashion of bringing up children to make use of the right arm more than the left, is assuredly a very common if not the chief cause of distortion or curvature; and certain it is, that the shape of ladies who are ambidextrous is generally straight and elegant.\*

\* We some time since saw a child of a nobleman with the left arm confined, because she had shewn a disposition to use it more than the right, or, as the nurse observed, to prevent her from being left-handed! The right arms of her three elder sisters were much larger than the left, and from the elevation of the right shoulder

A teacher of anatomy in London observing his daughter, at the age of fourteen, (just returned from a boarding-school,) to make use of her right leg and her right arm more than the left, was induced to examine the spine; and finding great irregularity in the bones of the chest, with slight curvature of the spine, he ordered her to make use of the left arm in writing, sewing, &c. more than the right, and to hop on the left leg for several minutes three or four times a day; the consequence of which was, she became perfectly straight in two months. She returned to school in an improved state of health, with directions not to use one arm or hand more than the other, and to exert both legs equally in dancing and walking. The treatment recommended by Mr. Shaw of supporting a certain weight on the head, is old, and, in cases of relaxation of the muscles and ligaments of the spine, and recent cases of curvature, by bringing the muscles of the back to act in concert, has no doubt proved very useful; but in cases of distortion from caries or ulceration, it would unquestionably prove injurious. In the case of bending forward of the head, and falling down of the lower jaw, in which he found the treatment fully to succeed in a few days, we suspect the learned gentleman had the powerful aid of Prince Hohenlohe or some other peculiarly favoured saint.

#### CONTRACTED JOINTS.

Mr. Shaw, the promising brother-in-law of Mr. Charles Bell, has also attempted to make an imposing exhibition of his judicious opinions in matters of practice, in explaining the reason why rubbers and shampooers, are sometimes, like Mr. Chester's instrument in diseases of the spine, successful in distortion and contractions of the limbs after surgeons had failed. His judicious opinion is, that the occasional success arises from pressure, thumbing, &c., calling into action parts which, from lying long dormant, have become feeble and useless. "The cases," says he, "where this practice is most likely to be attended with benefit, are those of stiff and contracted joints, after rheumatism or any chronic inflammation. But, to do good even in such cases, great perseverance is necessary, and a degree of boldness, which, *a priori*, we should almost consider dangerous. The professed rubber proceeds in a much more violent manner than those who know the structure of the parts would venture upon, without some previous evidence of the practice being harmless; although, indeed, this violence may be one cause of the rubber's success. But such bold practitioners may occasionally do harm, as they are seldom capable of distinguishing between the contractions attending the acute inflammations of joints, and those which are the consequences of chronic affections, and are also inattentive to the distinctions of constitution and the possibility of rousing a scrofulous action. However, instances of bad effects from their mode of practice seem to be rarer than we might expect; but we may not hear of all that occurs; for, although every instance where a *quack* (!!) is

blades, they were all evidently disposed to curvature. The enlightened mother always had a dread of her children being left-handed, than which she thought nothing could be more inelegant!

successful is blazoned about, parents are so far ashamed of entrusting their children to the care of ignorant persons, that they always endeavour to conceal any mischief that has been done." Now the fact is, the two most eminent professed and most successful rubbers in this kingdom, viz. Messrs. Summers and Grosvenor, are as well acquainted with anatomy as Mr. Shaw, or even his brother-in-law, Mr. Charles Bell, and, we are inclined to believe, better acquainted with practical surgery than the former. Their practice is not only more scientific, but they devote more time to their patients than a certain set of fee-hunting surgeons and "spinal column quacks."

"When a surgeon," proceeds Mr. Shaw, "for the first time witnesses the operation of a professed rubber, he is a little startled at the violence of his operations, and is surprised at the manner delicate patients bear them. Such were my own impressions *at first*, but having about eight years ago had frequent opportunities of seeing a famous rubber at work, and having witnessed the result of his treatment in several cases, I was so satisfied that, if judiciously combined with other modes, it might not only be safe, but of the greatest use, that I have since been in the habit of ordering the women" (the famous old women of Windmill-street!) "whom I employ on these occasions, to rub and shampoo with a *degree* of violence which, to some practitioners, might appear almost *unwarrantable*!! This, at any rate, is not the practice of Mr. Summers, and we should think, in the hands of ignorance, is very likely to produce serious mischief. "It is scarcely necessary," says Mr. Shaw, "to state, that the *nature* of the case must be *carefully* investigated before *any* mode of treatment is determined upon, and that from *whatever* cause the motion of a joint may have been lost, we should be very cautious in our *first* attempts to restore it. If the bones be ankylosed, our labour will be in vain, and the attempt to move the joint may be dangerous; but if the bones can be moved, in the slightest degree, we may calculate on doing good, for the stiffness *may* proceed only from inflammation changing the natural secretions of the sheaths of the tendons, or from adhesions having taken place *between those parts*. By rubbing and gentle attempts at motion, the cellular membrane by which the tendons and sheaths are united may be loosened and extended, the contracted ligaments may be lengthened, and the muscles resume their natural structure and functions. Liniments and oils of different kinds are generally employed by rubbers with the intention of suppling the joints. The use of them is certainly attended with advantage, for a great deal of friction is necessary to cause their absorption, on which the rubber supposes the charm of the treatment depends. They are also useful in removing any remaining inflammatory state of the joint, or in *preventing* its return."

We have met with cases of ankylosed joints (knee and ankle) in which Mr. Summers' mode of treatment has so far succeeded, that the patients were able to walk with great comfort to themselves without the use of a crutch; and where the adhesion is partial, i. e. the cavity of the capsular ligament not entirely obliterated by it, the treatment by "thumping and occasional attempts to move the joint," is as likely to succeed as in the cases of adhesions. of

tendons, &c. When oils and ointments are used by the "professed rubbers," it is with the view of preventing irritation of the skin by the hand; for none can be so ignorant as to suppose that such applications with friction can prove useful from *absorption* in removing or preventing an inflammatory state of a joint. Such an idea could only be entertained by the justly-celebrated old women of Windmill-street, or their brothers-in-law.

"But," continues Mr. Shaw, "although rubbing, shampooing, and a *variety* of exercises are most useful, and occasionally successful, they should be considered as only *part* of the plan of treatment; for the *position* in which a contracted joint is kept, is as important to its cure as the *occasional* relaxation and exercise. But so much harm has been done by instruments, that parents and even *many* practitioners (old women) seem to have a *complete* dread of them. They are, however," says he, "often absolutely necessary, for it will be found as difficult to remedy a contracted and distorted limb without the assistance of some means to support and preserve it in a certain position, as it is to cure a distortion of the spine merely by exercise. In every case of contraction, the cure will be at least much expedited by any means, however simple, by which the limb may be preserved during the time it is not exercised, in the improved condition into which it has been brought by the shampooing, &c. Two essential points are gained by keeping the limb in a right position. The alteration in the form of the heads of the bones, which is always to a certain degree the consequence of the contracted state of the joints, will not be so likely to increase; for the bones are no longer allowed to remain in the position which produced the change, and the muscles and ligaments that have been contracted will actually grow longer if kept extended. This fact," says Mr. Shaw, "is very important in practice." Directions for position of the limb are always given by professed rubbers, or those acquainted with surgery. By the use of instruments to prevent motion of the joint, much mischief is often produced.

"Proceeding on these views," continues Mr. Shaw, "I have *always* insisted on the application of some means to prevent contraction after the limb that has been shampooed, and have been particularly careful to keep the limb in a *proper* position during the night. Happily there are few cases where this cannot be done, and the means of doing it are generally so simple, that even an irritable and restless child can forget the restraint after one or two nights.

"If the limb be kept constantly encased in a machine, and no exercise whatever permitted, its muscles will waste, so that at the expiration of the period that was promised to be sufficient to effect a cure, the limb will be found incapable of supporting the weight of the body. It may, moreover, be stated, that a limb, from being thus rendered dormant, seems to be more than usually liable to be hurt by pressure; and hence we often see large and galling sores produced by the iron supports.

"It is from these obviously bad effects," says Mr. Shaw, "that shampooing, &c. have been of late used so much more than instruments; and certainly, if either system of treatment is to be used

singly, the latter is better than the former. But it is surprising that the two modes have not been more frequently combined, as the one assists the other very much, while either, when used singly, is rarely attended with success. It might be expected," proceeds Mr. Shaw, "that I should detail the manner of treating each case; but the forms of contracted limbs are so various, and the causes from which they proceed are so many, that it is not possible to do more than the general principle of the treatment. Its *application* to the individual cases must be left to the *ingenuity* of the practitioner" (a judicious opinion !!).

"The most difficult cases we meet with," adds Mr. Shaw, "are those where the contraction of the limbs is combined with a certain degree of palsy both of the *body* and *mind*. In some instances the mind is in such a condition as to render all our attempts abortive: but unless there is absolute imbecility, we ought not to give up any case as hopeless" (no fear of it so long as the friends can pay the fee) "for the mind in children often improves in the same ratio with the progress or increase in the bodily powers, and it is well known that nothing tends so much to give command over the muscles as repeated efforts to acquire it. One grand difficulty in the treatment of such cases, is to excite the child to put those muscles into action which we wish particularly to exercise. To effect this, we have not only to contrive such modes of performing exercises as will bring certain muscles into play, but we have to combine them with some amusement\* that will induce the child to put them into action: for however useful shampooing, rubbing, &c. may be, their effect upon the muscular system is as nothing compared to that of voluntary exertion; the importance of a child acquiring a voluntary power over its muscles (and which it may do by practice) is proved by the fact, that a child may be unable to walk, although all the muscles necessary to the action are sufficiently powerful, as is shown by the resistance they offer when we pull against them.†"

Mr. Shaw, like some other surgeons who commence their professional career by inferring instead of observing, or whose theories or hypotheses are formed in the closet instead of from facts collected in practice, makes a strange confusion of the different modes of treating diseased joints, &c. termed rubbing, pomelling, and shampooing.

The late Mr. Grosvenor, of Oxford, who may be termed the

\* "Children in this state vary so much in disposition, that the same amusement will not do for all; but I have generally found a noisy toy, connected with the exercising pulleys, the most effectual inducement to work."

† "The application of this principle will be found very useful in cases where, after a paralytic attack, one arm continued affected: the patient should take up small articles with the weak hand, and endeavour to place them in certain determined positions, as in making chess-moves, &c. If he should have, previously to the attack, been able to play on the piano-forte, practising on it will tend very much to restore the voluntary power over the muscles of the arm."

founder of the rubbing system, employed women (old and young) to rub the diseased part with the hand, with a little hair-powder to prevent irritation of the skin; and in many cases of *chronic* diseases of joints in *elderly* subjects we have known the practice to prove very beneficial; but, in cases of an *acute* nature, and in *young* subjects, it has produced considerable mischief. Mr. Summers' treatment by "rubbing and thumbing," and at the same time bringing muscles (which from want of exercise had become nearly paralised) under the influence of the will, and by moving or attempting to move by a judicious degree of force the affected joint, is a great improvement on Mr. Grosvenor's plan. It may be strictly termed anatomical, and has succeeded in numerous cases in which Grosvenor's plan had failed. The system of shampooing, introduced into this country by Mr. Mahomed, of Brighton, is a plan somewhat similar to that of Mr. Summers, conducted under the influence of vapour. This unquestionably acts as a powerful auxiliary by relaxing the skin; and in a variety of diseases of joints we have known it prove highly useful. The pomelling system, introduced by Admiral Henry, and lately highly extolled as a remedy for rheumatic and gouty affections of joints, by Dr. Balfour, of Edinburgh, consists in friction and pomelling by a hard substance, as a hammer made of box-wood or hard cork.

We have introduced Mr. Shaw's remarks on curvature, &c. of the spine, and on the treatment of contracted joints (most important subjects), because Dr. Macleod considered them worthy a place in his Journal, and we hope they will be found not altogether destitute of useful practical information.

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#### CHRONIC WATERY HEAD.

Mr. Holbrook, a respectable surgeon of Monmouth, has communicated to the profession an interesting case of this disease, which was treated by puncture. The patient, a male, was aged only eight months. The skull was enormously distended, and the scalp on the *left* side was so thin and prominent as to appear ready to burst. Mr. Holbrook punctured the scalp on the *right* side, when about a quart of clear serous fluid escaped. The evacuation produced very little effect on the child, but the integuments of the head became so flabby, that it was unpleasant to handle, from the circumstance of the bones being so widely separated at the sutures, and giving way to pressure in every direction. Mr. H. closed the wound with lint and adhesive plaster, and applied a handkerchief to steady the bones. It was now indeed a case for the treatment by bandages as lately recommended by Sir Gilbert Blane. Mr. Holbrook did not think it necessary to administer any medicine. The same operation has been repeated twice on the child with the same results. We advise Mr. Holbrook to administer a few doses of calomel, and to apply a stimulating lotion to the scalp, with a bandage as the most likely means to prevent a recurrence of the effusion.

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## COMPOUND DISLOCATION OF THE KNEE.

A very interesting case of this most formidable accident lately occurred in the practice of Messrs. Miller and Hoffman, eminent surgeons of Margate. The patient, a groom, was about 28 years of age. When in the act of mounting his master's carriage, his right leg became entangled between the spokes of one of the hinder wheels, which being in motion, prevented the possibility of quickly extricating the limb. Messrs. Miller and Hoffman were with him in about five minutes after the accident. They found the thigh bone thrown completely from its bearing on the principal bone of the leg (tibia) obliquely downward and outward, its external head protruding through the integuments, causing a lacerated wound of about three inches, and exposing the joint and popliteal artery; the latter, however, received no injury. Messrs. M. and H. lost no time in reducing the dislocation, which was effected with great facility. They applied two sutures and afterward adhesive plaster, and a lotion of Goulard's extract of lead, Mindererus's spirit, and water. Twenty ounces of blood were taken from a vein, and a purging draught administered. He had a restless night. The joint having swollen, the bandage was slackened. The pulse being full and hard, he was again bled and a cooling mixture and an opiate draught at night were prescribed. On the following day the tension had abated. The sutures were removed, and a poultice made of bread, and the lotion a little warm, was applied. Bleeding, the saline mixture, and the anodyne draught at night, were repeated. All went on favourably for two days, when a thin fetid discharge came on. The fomenting poultice was now applied. From this period the wound went on so favourably, that the patient was able to walk with a tolerably firm step, and to engage in the lighter parts of his usual occupation. Messrs. Miller and Hoffman attribute the favourable termination of this case to the early reduction of the dislocation, to which we may add, the very judicious treatment of the surgeons. In a London Hospital, we suspect the result would not have been so creditable to the healing art.

## GANGLION AND HYDROCELE.

A gentleman informs us that during the residence of his wife at Cheltenham, Dr. Thomas, observing a tumour (ganglion) on the back of her right hand near the wrist, told her that he could cure it by a very simple operation in the course of three days. The lady consenting to submit to the operation, he placed her hand on a table, and with a book gave the tumour a slight blow. The contents of the tumour immediately became diffused, and in two days entirely disappeared. By the blow the doctor ruptured the cyst, and the fluid which escaped into the cellular substance was afterwards absorbed. This rude mode of treatment was employed by the late Mr. B. Bell of Edinburgh, and we believe by other surgeons long before his time. It is certainly preferable to that by oblique puncture, noticed in our last number. We have known hydrocele to disappear in a few days after a severe blow received on it by an accident on mounting a

horse, but whether the *tunica vaginalis* was ruptured by it, we had not the opportunity of ascertaining, but as the disease did not return we suspect it was.

At a late sitting of the section of surgery of the French Academy, Baron Larrey presented a young officer on whom he had performed a radical cure of hydrocele, without employing any other means of exciting inflammation in the *tunica vaginalis* than allowing an elastic gum catheter to remain for a few minutes within the opening. A little lint besmeared with mercurial ointment has been introduced after drawing off the water for the same purpose.

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### COW POX & SMALL POX.

About five years since, a physician of Denmark informed us that so successful had cow pox proved in rendering the system unsusceptible of the action of small pox infection, that the latter disease has disappeared in that island. To us, as advocates for cow pox, the intelligence was most pleasing. We are sorry to find, by the medical reports in the periodical works of Denmark, that small pox has reappeared there with such severity, as to call for the interference of government; and that the vaccinated and unvaccinated have equally suffered by it. A part of the marine hospital of Copenhagen has been allotted to patients affected with small pox, and every means has been employed to promote vaccination.

A medical gentleman, who has been, for many years, a great, or rather blind advocate for cow pox, supposing that its effects on the constitution, as a security against small pox, wears out in the course of seven years, recommends the operation to be repeated every six or seven years. As small pox, communicated by inoculation, is a very mild disease, we would rather say abandon cow pox entirely, if it be not found to afford a permanent security against small pox infection. Whether the failures of cow pox, which have certainly increased within the last three years, and we are fearful still increasing, throughout this country, are to be attributed to the inefficacy of cow pox, or to the ignorance of vaccinators, we are at a loss to give an opinion. The majority of the profession, and we may with truth say the most respectable part of it, being cool and disinterested observers of the vaccine practice, whatever its fate may be, we are satisfied it will be fairly decided according to its real merits.

According to some reports, the small pox has appeared among the sheep and cows in Holstein, and the professors of animal medicine have had recourse to vaccination to check its progress. The cows vaccinated to secure them against small pox is certainly something new, if not ludicrous.

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### SCIIRRHOUS TUMOURS, &c.

We have lately received several reports of the very beneficial effects of the plaster of belladonna and mercury of the New Medicos Chirurgical Pharmacopœia, in dispersing scirrhouſe enlargement of the mammary gland. In one case, of a large encysted tumour over

the right pectoral muscle, this plaster, in the course of four months, has reduced the size more than one half, and entirely subdued the pain, which was sometimes very acute.

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### WHITLOW.

Sir—A few days ago I had very great redness about the index finger of the right hand, which gave me little trouble at the time; but its continuing to increase, and becoming exceedingly sore, I feared whitlow. The only remedy I had at hand (in a country place) was camphorated spirit of wine, which I applied, freely and constantly, by means of dossils of lint, not knowing at the time what its effect might be: however, to my great astonishment, in twenty-four hours the throbbing and pain ceased, the redness subsided, and I was happily saved the annoyance of suppuration. As I know there are many persons very subject to whitlow, I beg you may give publicity to this simple remedy, for its incipient stage, through your useful journal.

Yours, &c.

RICARDUS.

London, July 1825.

To the Editor of the *Gazette of Health.*

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### INTROSUSCEPTION.

Of all the acute diseases to which man is liable, there is scarcely one that is more painful or distressing, or more generally fatal, than that of the intestinal canal, termed *introsusception*. We have published several cases of this disease, some of which terminated fatally, under the care of Dr. Baillie, Sir Astley Cooper, Dr. Holland, and other eminent practitioners, and a few in which professional aid evidently succeeded in liberating the incarcerated portion of the intestine. In a late number of our Journal, we have noticed a case that occurred in our own practice at Brighton, in which copious injections of warm sea-water (after the exhibition of large doses of extract of henbane, the application of a large blister over the seat of pain, and copious bleeding), during the time the patient was in the warm bath, removed the obstructing cause. In our account of the disease which terminated the life of the late Queen (Number 69, page 1046), we have given a description of introsusception, and expressed our surprise that the surgeons of Europe have not had recourse to the operation of gastrotomy when unfavourable symptoms supervened, or when it was evident the obstruction could not be removed by any other means. Although Sir Astley Cooper scarcely hesitated on making an extensive opening into the abdomen, to apply a ligature to the descending aorta, in a cure of aneurism, the idea of performing the operation of gastrotomy in all the numerous cases of introsusception which have terminated fatally under his care, has not occurred to him. In the case of aneurism, the operation, with the addition of tying the descending aorta, there could be very little, if any hope, of success, but in that of introsusception there is a case on record in which it did succeed, and we really think the chance of recovery is nearly as great, when properly

performed, as that of liberating the contents of strangulated rupture. So formidable is gastrotomy considered by the surgeons of England, that few lecturers notice it, and those who do condemn it, as putting the patient to *unnecessary* pain. The operation, when dexterously performed, cannot be so painful as that of amputation of an arm; and if it should not succeed in curing the patient, it will assuredly diminish the sum of his sufferings, and probably prolong his life.

Dr. Hufeland, a celebrated Prussian Physician, has lately published in his Journal a case of introsusception, which, if true, is a very important document. The patient (a strong man), while collecting wood in the district of Olpe, suddenly experienced a dragging pain in the region of the navel, which rapidly increasing, forced him to return home. He crawled to his house with great difficulty. After a short repose, he vomited a little slime, after which the pain diminished. In the evening he had a faecal evacuation. Next day the patient was worse, being afflicted with acutely painful spasms, recurring every twenty or thirty minutes, with intervals of ease. Castor oil, the aperient salts, bleeding, under the direction of the parish surgeon, afforded no relief. In the evening the pains were more severe, attended with much discharge of wind. The symptoms continued much the same for the next four days, when Dr. Fuschustius was consulted. He found the patient in bed, and not then in pain. His countenance was pale, and tinged slightly yellow, with an expression of anxiety. The heat of the body was not much increased; the abdomen was not distended, nor hot to the feel; but pain was produced by pressure: the pulse was regular, soft, and about sixty in the minute; an induration about the angle, formed by the ascending and transverse portions of the colon, was evident. It appeared to be unequal on its surface, feeling like an uneven, distended intestine. The patient had no stool for five days, and had vomited only once. In half an hour after Dr. F.'s arrival, the pains came on. During this time, something hard, about the size of a fist, could be felt in the place above mentioned, and this spot was the chief seat of pain. The idea occurred to the Doctor, that the complaint arose from mechanical obstruction. He ordered a further abstraction of blood from a vein, and leeches to be applied over the part. A strict antiphlogistic plan was pursued till the eighth day of the disease, while baths, fomentations, glysters, &c. were tried, without any good effect. The patient's strength was considerably reduced, and his spirits depressed. The part remained indurated as before. On reflecting on this case, Dr. F. was convinced, that there was an introsusception of the gut, and he stated to the friends, that without an operation, there was no hopes of recovery. Objections to the operation being made, Dr. F. changed his mode of treatment. He gave two or three spoonfuls of warm oil, and a grain of opium every hour, for six hours. This treatment produced longer intervals of ease. Cold water, in large quantities, was thrown up the rectum, in a continued stream, but it quickly returned. The patient felt that the water reached the hardened part, and that it passed no further. On the ninth day he vomited matters of a bad, but not stercoreaceous smell. The abdomen was now

greatly distended, and the indurated part remained stationary. Quicksilver was now given, in the quantity of six ounces at a time. Vomiting immediately followed the exhibition of the medicine; but although no quicksilver was ejected, it failed to produce a passage downwards. The patient being now satisfied that no medicinal treatment would succeed, agreed to the proposed operation. The doctor accordingly determined to open the abdomen, at the outer edge of the right rectus muscle, two inches above the level of the umbilicus. The opening was effected in the usual way, and to the extent of about two or three inches. The operator then introduced his hand (besmeared with oil) into the belly, to search for the indurated part. Spasms coming on, a portion of intestine was forced through the wound, which was immediately replaced by an assistant. On farther examination, Dr. F. discovered in the portion of the intestine termed the *ileum*, a foreign substance, just where the hardened part had been felt externally. He drew the intestine out, in order to examine it more minutely. The intestine was *neither inflamed nor distended, but contained in its cavity a soft compact mass*, which could be felt as far as he could follow the intestine. He distinctly ascertained an introsusception, but could not reach the commencement of it, so as to bring it out. The doctor, after a little reflection, determined *to open the intestine itself*, rather than enlarge the opening in the abdominal parietes. An incision was accordingly made into the gut, at one end of the introsusception, and immediately a portion of the invaginated intestine came in view. The operator introduced his finger into the opening, which was about two inches in length, and gradually pushed back the introsuscepted part from the right to the left side, while he gently drew that part of the intestine containing the introsusception towards him. By this procedure he fortunately succeeded in disengaging the strangulated part, which amounted to **TWO FEET** in length (! !) There was no trace of inflammation, adhesion, or effusion to be seen. There was a long round worm in the upper part of the incarcerated part. No appearance of quicksilver was visible. The wound in the intestine was brought together by means of six stitches, in the form of the glover's suture, the ends of the silk thread being brought out of the external wound. The integuments were next secured, by the interrupted suture. The patient was then put to bed, and some broth given him. Nothing was administered to the patient for some days, but broth and gruel alternately. No spasms occurred after the operation, and a natural stool took place on the second day. By the fourteenth day the patient was completely cured, and was perfectly well when the Doctor saw him six months after the operation.

Dr. James Johnson, after noticing this case, says, it made a strong impression on his mind, "in consequence of a melancholy and interesting case which he lately attended, in company with Drs. Richardson and Outram, Sir Anthony Carlisle, and Mr. Davies. The patient was a young man, who had travelled with the late Mr. Belzoni, and was possessed of extraordinary capacity for the acquisition of languages, and the facility with which he personated the characters of

people of different nations. He had had a severe abdominal inflammation while in Egypt, some years ago, and since that period had been very irregular in his bowels, and subject to long-continued constipation. In the month of May last he was seized, after lifting a heavy weight (a piece of an Egyptian statue, in Leicester Square), with pain in the abdomen, attended with obstinate constipation, which could never be overcome till death, which took place ten or twelve days from the commencement of the disease. Every means were tried, during that period, including the exhibition of quicksilver, but without the slightest good effect. Vomiting of stercoraceous matter—great distention of the abdomen—dreadful colicky pains—and all the phenomena of ileus occurred, and continued many days before death, producing altogether one of the most distressing scenes which he ever witnessed!"

The body was opened by Mr. Alcock, a scientific and experienced surgeon of London, in the presence of several medical gentlemen. The intestines, above the obstruction, were greatly distended; but there was no inflammation that could fairly account for the patient's death. A portion of ileum had got entangled under an old band or *bride*, formed probably during the illness in Egypt, and was easily drawn out; but a complete obstruction—in fact, a regular internal strangulated hernia had been the consequence. One or two trifling introsusceptions were seen in the neighbourhood. "I have not the smallest doubt," says Dr. J. "that an operation would have readily freed the intestine from this strangulation, and that the only danger would have been simply that of gastrotomy. There would have been no necessity for an opening into the cavity of the intestine itself."

On this case Dr. Johnson makes the following judicious remarks:

"In respect to the German operation above described, we think it will be admitted by our surgical readers, that it would be much safer to enlarge the opening in the abdominal parietes, than, from want of room, be compelled to slit open the intestine itself. This last part of the operation is surely a fearful addition to the quantum of danger run in such a venturesome proceeding.

"The records of medicine present little, if any thing, that can enlighten us on the subject of the operation in question. Our author informs us, that Nuck performed a similar operation, as recorded in Haller's disputation. I have searched for the case, but could not find it. It is the only successful instance which he could find in the annals of medicine. If a German say so, we will search no farther. The late operation of Mr. Lizars\*, together with the case of Dr. F. himself, and the post mortem appearances in the case of Mrs. Bellzoni's servant, will probably give more confidence to the future operator than any thing which can be raked up from the records of antiquity."

Dr. Macleod and Mr. Bacot have lately published, in the journal of which they are Editors, the following remarks on intestinal ob-

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\* The operation by Mr. Lizars, the celebrated lecturer on anatomy and surgery in Edinburgh, was extirpation of the womb, which was successfully performed by him. (*Editor.*)

structions, from the pen of Mr. Morley, a scientific surgeon of Willingore.

" I am of opinion in strangulated rupture (which involves this intestine), if a surgical operation were performed shortly after the surgeon had discovered the cause of the alarming symptoms, nine times in ten human existence would be preserved. If the operation is performed by a skilful surgeon, there is scarcely any danger with respect to the operation itself. The fatality of the disease is occasioned by procrastination, and an obstinate perseverance in means which accelerate the fatal termination of this dreadful and painful malady.

" I need not here enumerate the symptoms which lead to the discovery of strangulated rupture; but I will say it is the imperative duty of every medical attendant, in cases of obstinate constipation of the intestines, to ascertain, in the first instance, whether such constipation is occasioned by strangulated hernia, which may be easily done by an examination; and, if such is the case, and it cannot be reduced by gentle means of *short duration*, immediately to recommend the operation, and in as decided terms as possible. An introsusception of the ilium cannot be discovered by any external examination of the body; therefore it is much more difficult to discover this disease than the other, though the same intestine is involved in each. If the obstruction is not speedily removed, inflammation of the bowels must ensue; and, before medical assistance is obtained, this generally, more or less, has taken place. If the effect be mistaken for the cause, nothing else than death, in all probability, will take place; for the more likely way of removing the obstruction is by mechanical means: but what medical man would recommend such means, when at the same time his mind was impressed with the idea that inflammation alone was the whole and sole cause of the obstruction? My mind will never be so impressed, because I am of a firm opinion that inflammation is merely the effect of a primary agent: 'remove the cause, and the effect will cease.'

" It requires very minute attention, almost amounting to an impossibility, to discover at first view (if unaccompanied with hernia), from what cause constipation proceeds: it may be from hardened faeces or introsusception, or both; but, fortunately, in the first instance, enemas, accompanied with bleeding, the usual methods resorted to, are proper in either case. If a copious evacuation is obtained by such means, and even hardened faeces are expelled, we must not be deceived; for, if there is an obstruction in the ilium, the enema will empty the larger intestines *below the stricture*, but the cause will still remain. If, after such evacuation, pain should return in the umbilical region, attended with a quickened pulse, anxiety in the countenance, and flushed cheeks, I would trust no longer to the usual routine of practice, but draw the conclusion the disease was in the ilium, and immediately proceed to mechanical treatment. Procrastination at this period, as in strangulated hernia, is dangerous.

" I am strongly of an opinion that the reason why quicksilver, given in a crude state, should be out of fashion in our time, has arisen from its having been given at too late a period; and, when death has

taken place under its exhibition, the fatal termination has been imputed to the remedy, instead of the disease. Mercury in its crude state will soon pass through the whole of the intestinal canal, unless there is a serious obstruction. If it meets with this obstruction, there is a probability that it will be overcome by its specific gravity. Not less than a pound should be given. If it should be retained days in the crude state, its active principle will remain dormant, and therefore it will do no harm. The retention of it proves the obstinacy of the disease, and, should it prove fatal, the mercury would have no more to do in hastening that event, than if it never had been employed.

"Mercury is the first mechanical power that I would recommend in introsusception of the ilium, and *at an early period*: the second, distention, by injecting per anum to the extent of three or four quarts of gruel, by the aid of Read's patent syringe: (no surgeon should be without one.) As the mechanical power of mercury acts by its specific gravity, the same power of the injection acts by distention; therefore there must be such a quantity thrown up as will reach the obstruction. A mild purgative clyster should always be used in the first instance, to empty the lower bowels of their contents."

Wellingore, August 2nd, 1825.

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#### WEN.

Dr. Alexander Mason, an eminent physician of Nottingham, has published the results of the trials he has made of iodine in cases of bronchocele, palsy, St. Vitus's dance, scrofula, deafness, white swelling, and distortion of the spine. The effects of this remedy on the tumour termed wen, is decisive of its specific action on that disease. Out of 116 cases of wen which were recommended to the General Hospital at Nottingham, seventy-six were cured, ten were much relieved, two were discharged in the state they were admitted, eleven were discharged for non-attendance, and seventeen were improving under its use. The Doctor prescribed the tincture of iodine, in the dose of from ten to thirty drops, three times, as directed by us in a former number of the work. In a scrofulous patient, the tincture of iodine succeeded in reducing the enlarged lymphatic glands. The patient at one time, by mistake, took nearly one ounce of the tincture without being diluted. It was immediately rejected by vomiting; and I am happy, says the Doctor, to be able to add, that no inconvenience or bad effect ensued. Had the tincture not been immediately ejected, it would probably have produced serious mischief in the mucous membrane of the stomach, or in the substance of the viscera and of the duodenum.

In one case of wen the doctor also employed a liniment composed of the compound soap liniment of the London Pharmacopœia (one ounce) and tincture of iodine, (one drachm.) A little of this liniment he directed to be rubbed over the tumour once or twice a day. He has not employed the ointment of the hydriodate of potass. In some cases the doctor has observed an effect of the remedy on the gums and

salivary glands somewhat similar to that produced by mercury, which has also been noticed by Drs. Elliotson and Macleod. We have never met with an instance of it, and we are disposed to attribute it to its *local* action. The same rule is to be observed with iodine as with all other potent articles; viz. to begin with a small dose, and to increase it cautiously and at proper intervals. In this way, observes the doctor, the practitioner will avoid doing harm, and will be able to discover any peculiarity of constitution before the dose of the medicine amounts to a quantity sufficient to injure the constitution, or to occasion much inconvenience.

Mr. Jowett, a scientific surgeon, who has held the appointment of resident surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital in Nottingham, has cured two cases of wen by the internal use of the tincture of iodine.

Since iodine has been introduced into the practice of medicine as a remedy for wen and scrofula, a very inferior article has been very generally sold by those druggists who, to obtain orders from the retailers of drugs in the country, will supply them with articles at any price. We sometime since heard a traveller offer a druggist in the country, Peruvian bark *in powder* at 2s. 6d. a pound, and the article *in quill*, (unpowdered) at 6s. 6d. a pound !! When the iodine was only used for philosophical experiments it was very fine and pure; but since it has been employed as a medicine, it is scarcely to be obtained genuine. Some chemists residing in Scotland have sent considerable quantities of iodine, as they term it, to this country at the rate of 4s. an ounce, three parts of which are impurities. In consequence of this most infamous practice, the reputation of one of the most valuable remedies that has been discovered, is greatly endangered.

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### ITCHING ABOUT THE ANUS OR SCROTUM.

A surgeon to a provincial hospital informs us that he has found the following ointment to succeed in allaying the itching about the anus, scrotum, &c. to which some erysipelatous subjects are very liable, and which in general resists the common remedies:

Take of Ointment of Nitrate of Quicksilver,

Acetate of Copper,

Belladonna, of each equal parts.

He admits that he is indebted to the New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia for his knowledge of the two latter ingredients. During its use, night and morning, he paid attention to the stomach and bowels. In many cases he found the complaint to be dependant on indigestion and costiveness.

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### MIDWIFERY.

### FAINTING FITS AND AFTER-PAINS.

On fainting fits, to which some nervous women are very subject during labour, and which are generally extremely distressing to the attendants, and even to the practitioner, the following practical remarks, by Dr. Dewees, are particularly worthy the attention of young accoucheurs:

"When these faintings take place where the peculiarity of constitution will not account for them, where they are attended with increasing exhaustion, where the labour-pains diminish, both in force and frequency, where they become more permanent in their duration, and the pulse flags or becomes nearly extinct, it behoves the practitioner to discover, when practicable, with all possible speed, the cause, and as quickly as may be to remove it.

"An internal hemorrhage is perhaps the most frequent cause of this alarming condition. When it proceeds from this source, it always commences gradually, that is, the debility is not suddenly induced, nor are the syncopes at first profound, but both may pretty rapidly increase, in proportion to the extent or force of the remote cause. The abdomen is observed to enlarge; sometimes there is a slight external hemorrhage, or discharge of serum a little tinged with blood; the pains slacken, and the woman becomes exhausted.

"In cases like these, there appears to be but one remedy, which is immediate delivery by turning, provided the internal mouth be sufficiently dilated to permit this operation; and, if not, we are pretty certain there is not that imperious necessity for instant delivery that would put to defiance the rules we have endeavoured to inculcate against a forcible entry of the uterus for any purpose; for it must be recollect, that after labour has commenced, and made some little progress, and especially if the woman has gone to the full period of utero-gestation, that the disposition to syncope is oftentimes favourable to the dilatation of the os uteri, or, at least, renders it so pliant as to be penetrated with but little force. When this is so, turning is the remedy, but we must take care to secure the tonic contraction of the uterus before we attempt the delivery of the placenta."

Baudelocque relates cases of concealed hemorrhage, which are highly interesting and well worth consulting. From what he relates upon this subject, it would appear that an hemorrhage of this kind may take place long before, as well as near, the period of nine months, and that the immense distention the uterus suffers from the influent blood provokes it to contraction, and brings on labour-pains. But, as the cause which may produce indicative syncopes cannot always be ascertained, and as it is rational to suppose it is in some way or other connected with labour, it will be well, under proper conditions of the uterus, to turn, and thus remove a difficulty, if not the absolute or direct cause of the faintings. Should these occur when labour is far advanced, or when turning would be ineligible, the forceps must be used.

The occurrence of after-pains, and especially the secreting of them, greatly depend on the manner in which a labour is conducted by the practitioner. Dr. Dewees says, after-pains may be rendered less severe, and entirely prevented,

"1stly, By rupturing the membranes when the mouth of the uterus is *sufficiently well dilated* to permit the head to pass, that the tonic contraction may immediately ensue: by this the following advantages result, as regards the prevention of after-pains. By the absence of the waters, the uterus is reduced in size in proportion to the quantity

discharged ; this gives greater strength to this organ, and enables it to contract with more force when empty, and consequently will more certainly diminish the size of the vessels exposed by the separation of the placenta, which, pouring out blood, gives rise to these pains. Again, it prevents the uterus from being too suddenly emptied, and thus inducing a state of debility in it, for it must be remembered that after-pains are never more certain, nor ever more severe, than after a very quick labour. 2dly, By permitting the uterus alone to finish the labour after the head is born ; in doing this, we have an assurance that the tonic contraction has regularly followed, as the uterus becomes more and more empty ; for, were this not the case, the alternate contractions would be feeble and transitory, as always happens when the shoulders are hurried through the external parts, and the uterus too suddenly emptied. The tonic contraction of course in this case is imperfect, and consequently the vessels are not pressed upon by this power when exposed by the separation and departure of the placenta,—consequently, blood is freely poured into the cavity of the uterus, where it coagulates, and obliges the uterus to throw it off by repeated contractions. 3dly, After the delivery of the child we may do much by not attempting the delivery of the placenta until we have insured the tonic contraction of the uterus, by the frictions before recommended over the hypogastric region, and, after its expulsion, to repeat them until the uterus seems to retire considerably within the pelvic cavity. Burton's success (though we should be but little disposed to follow his practice,) in preventing after-pains, by the introduction of his hand to the fundus of the uterus, and there kept until he found this organ contracting upon it, depended entirely upon the principle we have been endeavouring to establish,—namely, promoting, as quickly and as certainly as possible, the tonic contraction of the uterus."

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## THERAPEUTICS, &c.

### DR. GIBNEY'S TREATISE ON THE VAPOUR BATH.

(Continued from page 296).

In the *First Chapter*, Dr. Gibney notices the mode of using the vapour bath in Russia, Sweden, and Egypt ; its use in uncultivated nations, with Cox's description of Russian baths, and Savory's account of Egyptian baths. The *Second Chapter* embraces the process of massing, observations on friction, percussion, Mexican baths, Turkish baths (by Dr. Pocock), Persian baths (by Dr. Franklin), Spanish baths, dry heat preceding vapour, baths of Albano, appearances in diseases, practice similar to poultices, the sudatory, the baths of Nero, &c. The *Third Chapter*.—Metaline baths, heated air, steam (comparative weight of), latent and sensible heat, elasticity, atmospherical pressure, density and elasticity, &c. In the *Fourth Chapter*, the Doctor expatiates on the properties of air and steam, Mr. Leslie's experiments, the condensation and expansion of air, application of vapour, sympathy of exhaling surfaces, sudden transition to high temperature, primary effects of vapour, con-

density of vapour, orifices of the scarf skin, quantity of perspirable matter, cuticular absorption, the experiments of Ingenhouz and Cruikshanks, secretion of urine and perspiration, Sequin's and Lavoisier's experiments, organic sympathy, excessive temperature, experiments of Sir Joseph Banks, Sir C. Blagden, Dr. Fordice, &c. The *Fifth Chapter* embraces medicated vapour bath (sulphureous, aromatic, &c.) with their effects on gout, rheumatism, palsy, scrofula, the douche de vapour bath, mercurial fumigation, the balnea laconica, medicated vapour, the vapour from tar, the nitro-muriatic bath, the slipper vapour bath. In the *Sixth Chapter*, are noticed Dr. Gower's tracts on the spirit lamp vapour bath, warm bath heated by vapour, baths on an extensive scale, and shampooing. The *Seventh Chapter* is devoted to friction, percussion, the effects of local and general application of the vapour bath on a variety of diseases. In the *Eighth Chapter*, the Doctor notices the diseases to which the vapour bath is applicable, cautions necessary to its use, the different degrees of temperature, the time of using the vapour bath, salutary effects in gout, rheumatism, dry pumping, and the alternation of baths. The *Ninth Chapter* embraces paralytic affections, palsy, rheumatism, the painter's cholic, dropsies, bleeding in dropsy, diseased kidneys and bladder, scrofula, mesenteric tubes, pulmonic affections, glandular swellings, disease of the hip joint, white swelling, effects of luxations and injuries, cutaneous and venereal diseases. In the *Tenth Chapter*, the author enters fully on the treatment of suspended animation, insanity, mercurial diseases, intermittent, scarlet, and hectic fever; and in the *Eleventh Chapter*, he notices the ingenious opinion of Sir Richard Phillips, as to the nature of steam, &c., to illustrate the *modus operandi* of the action of vapour, and concludes with remarks on the various baths of different countries, and their comparative merits, as remedies for the cure or palliation of disease, and for preserving health.

The Doctor has given a drawing of the vapour bath of Mr. Mahomed's establishment, the spirit vapour bath or sudatory of Mr. La Beaume, and of the pommelling hammer, termed, by Dr. Gower, the pulsator.

By the above enumeration of the contents of each chapter our readers will perceive, that the work embraces many subjects of great philosophical interest, and of real importance in the practice of medicine. They will recollect that we have given our opinions of the value of the different baths, and the best modes of employing them in the diseases that occur in this country. The specification of the contents will enable our readers to ascertain how far the different subjects may interest their minds. All we have to add is, that the work evinces much research, a thorough practical acquaintance with each subject, and a mind capable of making accurate observations and drawing just conclusions. The perusal of it will satisfy our readers, that the experienced author has been stimulated in collecting and concentrating valuable facts from the most eminent authors, ancient and modern, for the information of the members of the profession, and consequently for the benefit of

mankind; and not actuated by the mercenary views of some late *philosophical* scribblers, on indigestion and its consequences, who, to give publicity to their names, will expend two hundred pounds to advertise an edition of a book, more than the sale of it produces. To Dr. Gibney the thanks of the profession are due for bringing so much very valuable information into a small compass, and for enriching the collection with his own practical remarks. Mr. Green, whose practical treatise on the vapour bath we noticed in a former number, has lately published a pamphlet under the title of "*Short Illustrations of the Advantages derived from the use of Sulphureous Fumigating, Hot Air and Vapour Baths, in a variety of obstinate Diseases;*" by which we are happy to learn, that these powerful adjutants are recommended by Sir Henry Halsford, Dr. Maton, Dr. Ridgway, Dr. Yates, Dr. Granville, Dr. Parke, Mr. Keate, Mr. Wardrop, Mr. Earle, Mr. Bacot, Mr. Wadd, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Blacket, Mr. Gaskoin, Mr. Jeffrey, Mr. Brodie, and other respectable practitioners of this metropolis. The cases, fifty-two in number, afford indisputable proof, if any were wanted, of the efficacy of these auxiliaries to internal remedies, in a great variety of diseases, especially of the skin, lungs, bowels, and joints.

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### PHILOSOPHICAL REMEDIES.

Why are not the philosophical or chemical remedies, as galvanism, electricity, the sudatory, the factitious airs, medicated vapours, &c. which are such powerful agents in the care of diseases as they are represented to be, by respectable practitioners in this country and on the continent, not employed by practitioners in the country, is a question frequently put to us. The answer is, few medical gentlemen are practically acquainted with them, and those few have not convenience nor inclination to obtain the various apparatus, some of which are very expensive, and to devote part of their premises to them. The time required in applying them properly is also a serious consideration, particularly with country surgeons, who are remunerated by charging journeys. We are happy to find that institutions are forming in most of the principal towns of England, that the practitioners may have an opportunity of giving them a trial. We were much pleased on going over one lately established in the Forgate Street, Worcester, under the able superintendance of Dr. Dods, with the assistance of Mr. Adams, who, like the Doctor, is practically acquainted with all the modern philosophical remedies, and the mode of employing them. The premises are particularly well calculated for such an establishment. On the ground floor, there is a dispensary, handsomely fitted up, and well stocked with the choicest drugs and chemical preparations, particularly those lately introduced by Majendie and other respectable French chemists, as the iodine, emetine, chlorine, quinine, &c. Here prescriptions are carefully compounded with the best articles, and the members of the profession and families may be supplied with all new chemical articles and genuine drugs at a very reasonable rate. On the right-hand side of the same floor are the

Doctor's consulting room and library, and on the back a complete surgery, with the most improved instruments, and all the periodical scientific works. On the first floor is a room fitted up with philosophical apparatus, viz. a galvanic trough, an electrical machine, Reid's stomach syringe, and other apparatus for philosophical experiments, and analysis of different natural and artificial products: and on the same floor there is a room for lectures, and others for different baths. A large room on the top of the house is scientifically fitted up as an laboratory, which is rendered fire-proof by sheet iron. The institution is creditable to the scientific character of the city; and in it, under the direction of Dr. Dods, a physician well acquainted with all the departments of medicine, the philosophical remedies, as they are termed, which are indisputably the most efficacious we possess in the cure of many diseases, will be judiciously administered, and we sincerely hope the medical gentlemen of Worcester will discard all unworthy motives, and heartily join the Doctor in his most praiseworthy undertaking, for the benefit of their afflicted fellow-creatures and the honour of their profession. We are about to form a similar establishment (except the baths) at No. 4, East Street, Brighton.

#### MERCURY.

The different effects of mercury on different constitutions, and on the same person at different periods of the year, or under certain conditions of body, are well known to the members of the medical profession. Some dreaming chemists of France, who have a happy knack of explaining every phenomena on chemical laws, have attributed the different effects of mercury to the quantity of acid or alkaline matter in the fluids of the body, or oxygena in the blood, but its effects on the gums have not been promoted or increased by the exhibition of an acid. Some time since we met with a case of salivation which was produced by half a grain of red precipitate of mercury applied to the surface of an ulcer. We have again met with patients affected with syphilis, on whom we could produce an effect on the gums or salivary glands by the internal and external employment of mercury. Mr. Thomas, a respectable surgeon of Pembroke Dock, has lately published an account of a lady, for whom he prescribed four grains of the preparation of mercury, termed *calomel*, with six of jalap powder. This composition was taken on the 10th of January, at night, and followed by a cathartic draught the next morning. It operated the next day as a purgative; but complete salivation was established on the 19th. Mr. Thomas states, that this is the second time a similar effect had been produced by a small dose of mercury on this individual. A surgeon at Plymouth, wishing to affect the mouth slightly, sent his some pills, two of which were to be taken every six hours; but, before the dose could be repeated, she was salivated. A female, about thirty years of age, for a scirrhoue enlargement of the right mammary gland, was directed by an eminent surgeon to take five grains of blue pill every night for a fortnight, and then to visit

him again. At the end of four days she was confined to her room by violent salivation. The affected breast considerably enlarged, and, notwithstanding active means were adopted to keep down irritation and fever, she died before the expiration of the fortnight.

A gentleman, aged about thirty-five, with a glandular tumour, was advised to go to Brighton for ten days, and to take five grains of the blue pill every night for that time, and to make use of the warm bath every other day. After taking three doses of the pills, and using the warm bath twice, salivation came on.

It has been said, that mercury acts more mildly on infants than on adults; and the late Dr. Clarke, entertaining this idea, was in the habit of prescribing from ten to twenty grains of calomel as a dose for infants at the breast. A case of salivation of an infant sometime since occurred in Leeds, which was produced by one dose of Ching's worm lozenge, containing only two grains of calomel. This effect proved fatal, and the coroner's inquest returned a verdict of death by Ching's worm lozenges.

Cases of sudden salivation by a small dose of mercury forcibly point out the absurdity of directing a patient to take a dose every night for so long a period as a fortnight, or the necessity of the prescriber seeing the patient at least every third day, and also of learning the effect of mercury on his constitution.

At a late meeting of the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta, a paper was read on the mode of administering mercury in affections of the liver, dysentery, and fevers, from the pen of Mr. Annersley, an experienced surgeon in the service of the East-India Company, in which he states, that the perusal of Dr. James Johnson's work on tropical diseases, had induced him to alter his practice so far as to substitute the dose of 20 grains of calomel for that of one grain. This quantity "he gives with two grains of opium every seven or eight hours, followed by a brisk purgative." He observes, the mouth should never be affected, and when it is, he conceives the *salutary* operation of the calomel is in some way or other interrupted!! With respect to the prevailing belief, that many constitutions in India are ruined by the free use of calomel, Mr. A. attributes such influence to the *continued* use of *small* doses after the necessity of the remedy has ceased. He states his opinion, that a large dose of calomel allays irritation, and a small dose by entering the system excites it. The sedative effects of large doses of calomel are, we conceive, secondary, *i. e.* the consequence of its aperient or depleting operation. If, in the dose of twenty grains, it be a sedative, why add opium? When given without opium, it generally excites nausea, purging, and sometimes vomiting, effects which assuredly afford strong evidence of its being a powerful irritant. In the cases of dysentery and fever, in which Mr. A. found twenty grains of calomel, with two of opium, administered every seven or eight hours, to prove successful, we are disposed to attribute more to the operation of the opium and the "brisk purgative that followed each dose," than to the calomel; and we are inclined to agree with another eminent surgeon of Calcutta, that had Mr. A. omitted the calomel, the proportion of recoveries to the

deaths would have been greater. The addition of opium is, in our opinion, more likely to promote the absorption of calomel, and consequently to produce salivation, by preventing its irritating action on the stomach, than otherwise; and it is with this view that surgeons prescribe opium with calomel in cases of syphilis. We sometime since met with a case of chronic inflammation of the liver, in a lady about eighty-five years of age, in which calomel had been administered according to Mr. Annersley's plan. In two days she was in such a state of salivation as not to be able to take any nourishment, except in liquid form. The soft palate absolutely mortified, and before the expiration of a week, after taking the first dose, its sedative or quieting effects were, indeed, but too evident. After suffering exceedingly for five days, she cheerfully discharged her debt to nature. Some systems being more susceptible of the operation of mercury than others, how is it possible to administer it in such doses as twenty grains every seven hours, so as "never to affect the gums?" This caution, in our humble opinion, betrays great ignorance of the general effects of calomel, and a deficiency of the power of accurate or sound observation, without which the most extensive experience cannot raise the practitioner above the rank of an empiric or routine plodder.

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### QUININE, AND SULPHATE OF QUININE.

M. Henry, sen. has lately made some experiments with this article, apparently with the view to ascertain its salubility in port wines. On mixing four grains of sulphate of quinine with four ounces of wine, a portion of the salt was almost immediately precipitated, either by the colouring matter of the wine, by the astringent principle contained in it, or by the tartar; a portion of the quinine remained in the wine, in the state of an acid sulphate. A physician of Denmark has lately published some cases of intermittents, in which the sulphate of quinine appeared to act as a poison, the stomach and bowels having considerably swollen after the exhibition of two doses, which was soon followed by death. He considers quinine to be the poisonous part of bark, and to it he attributes the beneficial effects of the bark in some diseases, and its baneful effects in others. As a stomachic or tonic medicine, to be continued for some days, or even to be taken occasionally, he condemns it. Being a very powerful bitter, we should certainly not recommend it to be continued many days in cases of indigestion of elderly people, or where there is any symptom of breaking up of the constitution, as swelling of the legs, nervous tremors, loss of appetite, irregular bowels, &c. Being free from the astringent and tannin principle, we are not disposed to place any confidence in it as a tonic medicine; indeed, we have no hesitation in asserting, that the most valuable constituents of the bark are thrown away, during the process of obtaining the quinine. We are, from late observations and reports of different practitioners, much disposed to believe, that further experience will prove that quinine and cinchonin are, as our Danish correspondent states, the poisonous con-

constituent of the Peruvian bark, for it is probable every bark possesses such principle.

Those credulous hypochondriacs who may have fancied they have received benefit from certain nostrums, advertised as containing the sulphate of quinine, need not be afraid by this report of being injured by the sulphate of quinine,—for this substantial reason; “it does not enter those compositions.” The tonic base is the extractive matter of quassia, the continued use of which is no less likely to injure the stomach. A respectable French chemist informs us, that one half of the sulphate of quinine sent to this country is magnesia rendered bitter by the extractive matter of quassia!!

Since writing the foregoing remarks, we have met with the following account of the sulphate of quinine in the transactions of the Royal Medical Society of Bordeaux.

M. Guitard has treated a rheumatic intermittent fever, accompanied with irritation of the stomach; these complaints, aggravated by the use of the sulphate of quinine, disappeared on exhibiting the powder of bark united with magnesia.

M. Guerin, jun. reports the case of a female, seventy-six years of age, who had been poisoned two years previously with verdigris, and whose stomach retained a great portion of irritability: she suffered last April, from an attack of a quotidian fever, which was exasperated by the employment of the sulphate of quinine, but which yielded to several copious local bleedings upon the epigastric region. The sulphate of quinine is not, therefore, always so innocent as is pretended. M. de St. Crie has remarked, that, when it is prescribed in too large doses in intermittent fevers, it causes a great degree of irritation at the stomach, destructive of the febrifuge power of the remedy. The preparation of bark, introduced into the practice of this country by the late Dr. I. Carmichael Smyth, under the name of the “Essential Salt of Bark,” is, in our opinion, preferable either to the quinine and sulphate of quinine, on account of containing all the active principles of the drug.

### MERCURIAL OINTMENT.

M. Hernandez has communicated to the Society of Pharmacy of Paris a new mode of making the mercurial ointment. It consists in heating the mortar in which the ointment is to be made so as to liquify the lard. As the lard cools, the quicksilver becomes divided or incorporated, during the trituration. By this plan, much time and labour are saved; an addition of a few drops of turpentine, which evaporates during the trituration, greatly accelerates the division of the quicksilver.

### THE LESSER CATAPUTIA SEEDS.—(*Euphorbia Lathyris*.)

M. Caventon has made several experiments with the oil of the seeds of this plant, by which it appears, that it is nearly as strong a purgative as the oil of the croton seeds, and that it operates without exciting vomiting or griping pains, the very common effects of the

croton oil. The oil of the lesser cataputia seeds is free from taste and smell, and may be administered to children with sugar, with articles of diet, without occasioning an idea of physic, a desideratum of no small importance to nurses, or those who undertake to exhibit medicine to children. The purgative property of the lesser cataputia seeds was well known to the antient physicians, and it appears they have fallen into disuse in consequence of their drastic effects, and of their being considered by some eminent writers to be poisonous. We understand, the seeds have been sold in this country for the croton seeds, and also the oil of them for that of the latter.

### THE NEW SOUTH AMERICAN BARK.

In consequence of the short accounts we have given of this bark, termed by the natives of Mexico, Pitayo bark, a respectable gentleman has sent us the following communications of its medicinal virtues from Drs. Bancroft, Miller, Adolphus, and Weir, eminent physicians of Jamaica.

*Kingston, Jamaica, 29th March, 1825.*

SIR, — I believe that almost every medical officer, in this vicinity, who has had an opportunity of making trial of the bark from Pitayo, is fully satisfied of its virtues as a remedy in intermittent fevers.

Under my own immediate superintendance, this bark has been administered, in eight or nine severe cases of the disease, among seamen; and one ounce, given in drachm doses, each successive hour, has invariably arrested its course; even when the complaint had been of long duration, and had resisted the exhibition of the Peruvian bark.

From its superior aroma, and less nauseous taste, it is found to be much lighter on the stomach than the cinchona, and can thus be given in larger quantities when necessary; it must, therefore, when properly introduced into more general practice, prove a valuable addition to our *materia medica*.

I remain, Sir, your's, very faithfully,

JAMES WEIR, M. D.

*Kingston, 12th March, 1825.*

SIR, — As I could not feel justified in making trial of the bark from Pitayo, which Captain Charles Cochrane had left with me, in my private practice, I requested an intelligent friend, who is one of the surgeons of the public hospital in this city, to make use of it among the patients in that institution, who were affected with intermittent fevers; and I have much pleasure in transmitting, for Captain Cochrane's information, his report of the results of his experiments, considering it as so satisfactory that I now should have no hesitation in taking it myself, or in prescribing it, if the parcel I received were not wholly used.

Allow me, however, to observe, that unless full information be given to the world concerning the botanical characters of the tree from which the bark in question was procured, of which we are at present quite ignorant, its introduction into general practice will meet with serious obstacles.

I remain, Sir, your's, very sincerely,  
To James Simpson, Esq. E. N. BANCROFT, M. D.

*Kingston, Jamaica, March 10, 1825.*

DEAR SIR,—I regret that circumstances put it out of my power to transmit to you, at present, the cases in detail of patients in the public hospital of Kingston, on whom trial was made of the powers of the Pitayo bark.

This bark was administered in eight or nine cases of intermittent fever, in all of which it proved successful after two or three days' perseverance in its use, though some of the patients had taken Peruvian bark for a considerable time without any benefit. Though given in doses of one drachm, it was found to cause less uneasiness of stomach than the cinchona, and was rarely, if ever, rejected.

My partner, Dr. Mackglashan, jun. also gave the medicine to several patients in private practice, and found that it fully answered the expectations formed from what had been seen in the hospital.

I remain, dear Sir, your's very respectfully,  
Dr. E. N. Bancroft. J. MILLER, M. D.

*Kingston, Jamaica, March 29, 1825.*

MY DEAR SIR,—In answer to your letter of yesterday's date on the subject of the Pitayo bark which Captain Charles Cochrane left with me for trial, I beg to acquaint you for his information, that I directed the apothecary to the forces in this island to issue a proportion of that bark to the several medical officers in charge of military hospitals in this neighbourhood; from all of whom, it is gratifying to me to state, I have received very satisfactory reports of its superior efficacy to the Peruvian bark in the cure of the intermittent fevers of this country.

I remain, my dear Sir, your's very sincerely,  
James Simpson, Esq. J. ADOLPHUS, M. D.  
&c. &c. &c. Deputy Inspector of Hospitals.

We have no doubt from our own experience and that of others, as well as from analysis of the Pitayo bark, that the above very favourable reports of its efficacy in the cure of intermittent fever will be confirmed by the results of further trials of it in this country. A quantity of it has been forwarded to the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, in order that those who may wish to give it a trial, may be supplied with it at a cheap rate.—The present price 4s. per pound, and 4s. 8d. in powder.

#### WHITE MUSTARD SEED.

We have received a copy of a dissertation on the efficacy of the White Mustard Seed, taken whole, as a remedy for "tendency of

blood to the head, head-ache, weakness of the eyes and voice, (why not of the brain or intellects?) hoarseness, asthma, shortness of breath, wheezing, coughs, spasms, cramp and other uneasy affections of the stomach, debility, uneasiness, pain and sense of tenderness or soreness in the interior, and particularly at the pit of the stomach; pain in the sides and lower part of the body, scanty and redundant flow of bile, scirrhouis liver and other morbid affections of that organ, deficient perspiration, gravel, scanty and unhealthy state of the urine and other disorders of the kidneys and skin, relaxed and irritable bowels, flatulence, occasional and habitual costiveness, severe colds, rheumatism, lumbago, spasms and cramp in the lower limbs or body, partial and general dropsy, palsy, coldness of the limbs and feet, loss of appetite, failure of sleep, weakness of nerves, depression of spirits, general debility of the system, ague, gout, rheumatic fever, epilepsy, scrofula, scurvy, St. Anthony's fire, tic douloureux, convalescence after small pox, typhus and scarlet fever and other severe disorders, worms" (long and short). The White Mustard Seed swallowed whole, like Dr. Solomon's incomparable Balm of Gilead; therefore, is an infallible remedy for all the diseases that assail human nature. No matter whether acute or chronic, inflammatory or otherwise, the White Mustard Seed is a certain remedy. It will diminish the vital powers or excessive action, either inflammatory or muscular; and in cases of palsy or debility, it will increase the vital powers!!! It is in fact an irritant and anti-irritant, and therefore applicable to the cure of diseases opposite in their nature. This is indeed a death-blow to Dr. Wilson's *philosophical and practical Treatise on Indigestion and its consequences*, Dr. Armstrong's theory of venous congestion of the mucous membrane of the stomach, the nostrum termed "cure all," Dr. Solomon's infallible Balm of Gilead; and Rymer's Cardiac Elixir.

The "practical" dissertation on the seeds, from which we have taken the liberty of copying the diseases and the *symptoms* of diseases for which the seeds are recommended as an infallible remedy; we are told was written by a medical gentleman, a Dr. or Mr. J. T. of Lincolnshire !! It has gone through seven impressions. The copy we have received, was printed by Messrs. Tymbs and Deighton, of Worcester, and the work we find has been very industriously circulated by a person in Worcester, who has given up the trade of repairing certain articles of dress termed inexpressibles, for the honourable trade of selling "genuine white mustard seeds of the right quality." !!

Mustard Seed, both black and white, taken whole, in the quantity of a tea-spoonful two or three times a-day, or a table-spoonful once a-day, is an old remedy for indigestion from debility, constipation from torpidity of intestines, for chronic rheumatism and palsy. In these complaints, the black mustard seed taken whole was a favourite remedy with Dr. Blount at the Hereford Infirmary; and in general it was productive of much benefit. Some practitioners finding the seeds to pass through the intestinal canal whole, attribute their operation on the stomach and intestines to their mechanical action; but there is no doubt of their imparting to the contents of the stomach a

stimulating quality; for on retaining them in the mouth half a minute, the saliva becomes so strongly impregnated with their peculiar aroma, as to irritate the gums and palate. Dr. Blount at one time directed the seeds to be slightly bruised, but in this state they excited so much irritation in the palate and gullet as to occasion vomiting. In cases of primary debility of the stomach, particularly when the consequence of over-stimulation by wine, spirits, or savory dishes, or when the stomach is overloaded with food, mustard seed taken whole is unquestionably an excellent stimulus, and this effect is, probably, both chemical and mechanical. The article being stimulating only, the beneficial effect on a debilitated stomach or sluggish intestines will be temporary; and if the patient, to keep up its good effects, should continue the remedy, he will find, as the stomach becomes accustomed to it, an increased quantity will be necessary to invigorate that organ. The result of such a practice continued for many months will be some organic derangement, which will resist not only the "*fundamental remedy*" of the repairer of inexpressibles and of the human fabric, but also the most judicious treatment of the most skilful member of the profession. To gluttons and to gin-drinkers the black and white mustard seed may prove a good stimulus; to the former, by bringing the powers of the stomach into action, so as to get rid of its burthen; and to the latter, it may prove a powerful adjuvant to the exhilarating draught; and when taken two or three times a day, as recommended by the Doctor of inexpressibles, it will render a less quantity of gin, rum, or whisky, necessary to animate the frame, or remove ennui; but when indigestion is the consequence of organic disease, a very common cause of the complaint, and especially in those countries where the common beverage is cider, as in Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and Devonshire, the seeds, like other stimulants, will promote digestion, and even allay pain; but their chemical action on the diseased structure will assuredly hasten its progress to ulceration, and consequently accelerate dissolution. Even in irritable stomachs, stimulants will allay pain and spasms, and promote digestion; but their chemical action on the coats of the stomach is most injurious, producing thickening and congestion of the vessels of the internal coat, which they will hasten to scirrhosity and ulceration. There are three kinds of stomachics, viz. stimulants, bitters, and astringents. Of the former, we may notice the black and white mustard seeds, ginger, the black and white pepper, pimento, capsicum and other spices, gin, brandy, whiskey, &c. These articles, by rousing the powers of the stomach, or stimulating the gastric glands, prove useful in a variety of cases of indigestion. The bitters, as gentian, columbo, quassia, and horehound, prove beneficial in cases of indigestion, arising from increased excitement or feverish condition of the stomach, (a common cause of indigestion in young gluttons, inebriates and nervous subjects,) by allaying irritation or quieting the disturbed nerves. It is worthy of remark, that in young children the simple bitters noticed above weaken the stomach. The other class, viz. astringents, as rhubarb root, Peruvian bark, cascarilla, &c., afford relief in cases of

indigestion from primary debility or relaxation of fibres, by increasing the cohesion of the coats of the stomach, and of course its nervous and muscular powers. It is in many cases of indigestion necessary to combine these articles ; but no practitioner, who has any regard for his own reputation, or for the life of his patient, would think of administering a stimulus *alone* in any disease of the stomach. As to the other complaints, for which the Lincolnshire Doctor and the Worcester *Doctor of leather* inexpressibles and of the human frame, enumerated in page 372, (one half of which are mere symptoms,) we should say, the practitioner, who would administer mustard seeds, or any other stimulus alone, must be either insane or ignorant of medicine.

We beg to ask the Doctor of inexpressibles, if an ignorant person, affected with shortness of breath, was to take the mustard seeds, in consequence of his warm recommendation of them, for her complaint, was to bring on inflammation of the lungs, and she was to continue the remedy till it arrived to an incurable stage, how he would reconcile the result to his own conscience ? Wheezing, cough, spasms, pain, sense of tenderness, and more than one half of the complaints for which the mustard seeds are recommended by the author, are attendants on inflammation ; and, in such cases, the white mustard seed, exhibited as directed by the Worcester Doctor, would probably destroy life in a few days. We advise the learned Doctor of inexpressibles either to confine his remedy to complaints of the stomach and bowels of inebrates and gluttons, whose lives are of little value to the community, or to relinquish doctoring the human frame for the far more honourable one of making and repairing leather inexpressibles ; and instead of recommending mustard seed as a universal remedy, to assure them there is after all “ nothing like *leather*.”

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### CHARGE OF SCEPTICISM AGAINST THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

Buonaparte, a few months before his death, when engaged in his garden, observed to Dr. Antommarchi, his *last* physician, “ The evolutions of a seed in the ground, and even the organization of a blade of grass, are alone sufficient to satisfy my mind of the existence of a God ! Tell me then,” said he, looking stedfastly in the Doctor’s face, “ why the members of your profession, throughout Europe, who are acquainted with the wonderful mechanism of the human fabric, and the still more wonderful faculties of the mind, doubt more than any other class of society the existence of an all-ruling Providence ? ”—The Doctor, who had been accustomed to converse with Buonaparte on military affairs, the politics of Europe, and occasionally on medical subjects, was stultified by this question. Buonaparte, observing his confusion, pulled both his ears, and emphatically observed, “ Doctor doctissimus, you are either ashamed to acknowledge your scepticism, or at a loss for arguments to defend your brethren.” The Doctor says, Buonaparte was in the habit of pulling the ears of his friends as a mark of respect ; but in this in-

stance, we suspect, he thought that if his ears were elongated, they would be more in character with his mind. Buonaparte started a fine subject for the display of his anatomical and physiological knowledge : but the Doctor had only studied anatomy mechanically !! The admirable contrivances and beautiful designs of the animal machine, had escaped the notice of this philosopher ! Had he possessed a contemplative or philosophical mind, he would have eagerly embraced the opportunity Buonaparte had given him, to convince him that the charge of scepticism, so generally made against members of the profession, was without foundation. He might have noticed the beautiful formation of the various joints of the skeleton, the situation and form of the muscles, with their tendinous terminations, adapted to the motions for which the different joints were constructed ; the ramifications of the nerves, to bring the muscles under the influence of the will ; the organs for the assimilation of food, for the support of the body ; the transmission of the chyle to the mass of blood ; the distribution of the blood to every part of the body by the heart and arteries ; the deposition of new matter, and absorption of old ; the organs for carrying off excrementitious matter, and a hundred minutiae, as evidence of the absurdity of the doctrines of chance. The admirable contrivances of the fabric indisputably prove there must have been a Contriver. He might have emphatically observed to Buonaparte, it is impossible the man acquainted with anatomy can be such a fool as to say " in his *heart* there is no God." As to the idea of medical men being Materialists, which also prevails, he might have dwelt on the wonderful faculties of the mind, and the different powers of the system, to prove that medical men who entertain such an idea must be incapable of sound reflection ; for surely the operation of the mind, the conservative power of the body, &c. are not effects or operations of matter. As to evidence of a future state, he might have noticed the fact of man being at the head of the creation, and all things being more or less intended for his use, and then emphatically asked him, if the object of the Creator can end with the material existence of man ? What, created merely to pass through a miserable existence in this world, a life, to say the best of it, as the poet observes, a " drop of honey in a pint of gall "? The Creator, we are satisfied, has given man an instinctive conviction of a future state ; the idea pervades all nations, civilized and uncivilized : and his natural feelings tell him his mind is susceptible of delightful impressions, which this world is incapable of giving. We have known many, from a foolish pride, attempt to argue against a future state, but who, on their death-beds, or when visited by serious disease, ridiculed the idea, and declared that, although they had defended it, they never believed it. Buonaparte, however, never had a doubt of a future state. He had impartially examined the arguments *pro* and *con* ; and when he compared those against it with those in its favour, he acknowledged they were weak and futile in the extreme ; in fact, the doctrines of immortality of the soul have not been shaken by one rational or sound argument, and are supported by hundreds.

We have made the above remarks merely as an introduction to the part of the oration delivered by Sir Henry Halford on opening

the New College of Physicians, which was evidently introduced by the learned Baronet and Physician with the view of removing the stigma of scepticism and irreligion which has been cast on the medical profession throughout Europe by some theological writers, a few of whom are capable of pourtraying the beauties of Christianity in the most fascinating colours, but who rarely if ever practise it.

After passing some encomiums on the late Dr. Baillie, Sir Henry proceeded :

“ And here I would pause, for a moment, on that beloved name (M. Baillie),—to express my grief that he, all excellent as he was—he, so many years of a laborious life, my companion, associate, friend—should have been doomed never to see the dedication of this place—never to mingle with this concourse of illustrious guests ! He has gained fame on earth—and, I confidently hope, eternal felicity in heaven. From his earliest years he had been engaged in the study of the human fabric, and from this study he learnt to look with wonder and veneration on the power and omniscience of his God ! ”

“ But when he entered on the duties and practice of his profession, he knew right well *how little*—*how very little* the physician could assist the efforts of the body to throw off disease, unless he were thoroughly versed also in the motions, the powers, and the affections of the mind—of that mind, I say, which is one and the same with the body (! !) and yet different — associate of the body, and yet separate and distinct—shut up and knitted in its frame-work, yet free and unconfined—ever ‘ longing after immortality,’ ever looking forward to that ‘ inevitable bourne,’ yet glancing back with instinctive awe and fear ! By this unceasing contemplation of the power and majesty of the Creator, he was taught to revere his commands—to place a firm reliance in him; and submit himself entirely to his parental care. Hence that pious life—hence that tried integrity—hence that constant habit of saying, in simplicity and truth what he thought—of doing unto others as he would they should do unto him—hence his truly candid and charitable disposition. But I must restrain my feelings, although I never could dwell long enough on the virtues and merits of that honoured name—a name which will not be considered as overpraised by you, many of whom, perhaps, owe *your health and existence*, at this moment, to his consummate skill and judgment (! !) I cannot fear that you will reproach me with adulation of BAILLIE, *dead*, who, when living, was in the hearts of all :—who has left behind him a most ennobling example (may we all imitate it) of industry, benevolence, piety and innocency of heart.”

The oration was, as in ancient times, delivered in the Latin language. Although this custom has been abandoned by the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of all the nations of Europe, even by those of Catholic countries, the state of medicine at the English Universities, or the College of Medicine of London, still requires this cloak !! The bye laws and regulations of the College, and their system of medicine, would not be in character in any other than a Catholic dress. The regulations of the College are truly Catholic. Their examinations and lectures are in Latin, and their courts are closed, so that those who are summoned before the censors cannot have the benefit of a legal adviser, or the presence of a friend as a

witness: They make bye-laws for the purpose of benefiting themselves; and although their laws are not published, they will punish practitioners for violating them! We have attentively read the whole of Sir Henry's Latin oration, without being able to discover any thing in it that might not have appeared in the English language. Had he delivered it in the language of the country, more of his audience would have understood him, and some would not have been annoyed by the nasal sounds, *vulgarily* termed snoring, of one of the royal attendants.

Whatever the pronunciation may have been, the idea of the style being classical generally prevailed among the attendants. Some Italian gentlemen declared it to be good English Latin. A Fellow of the College, pointing out to a chemist the elegant Latin of his prescriptions, the latter emphatically observed, What a pity it is they are *unchemical*. This simple observation speaks volumes. We are really so sick of the Latin language, that we sincerely hope, in compassion to our *acute* feelings, the learned President of the Royal College of Physicians will in future condescend to deliver his orations in the language of his country; or, if it be not sufficiently classical, either in the Celtic, Hebrew, or Arabic, in which some of the medical works of the ancients, which the College so highly esteem, were originally published. Really, really, most learned President, with all due respect for your Pharmacopœia, your volumes of Transactions, ancient and modern, and veneration for your antique books, your paraphernalia, &c., medicine has been brought to such a degree of perfection by the labours of the moderns, as no longer to require the cloak of a dead language. We may with confidence lay it fairly open for the examination of the scientific part of the public.

#### SPRING WATER.

A few weeks since, during a short residence at Brighton, we were requested to visit a lady and her three children at Worthing, who had been suffering for some days from a disorder of the stomach and bowels. The servants being similarly affected, we were led to make inquiry respecting their food, &c., from which we could discover nothing to account for the complaint. One servant having intimated that the water of the well which was in the back kitchen, was sometimes very offensive, we thought proper to examine it. The taste and smell soon satisfied us of the presence of putrid animal matter in it, which we and a servant attributed to some animal that had fallen into the well, then in a putrid state. The well was accordingly examined, but no animal was discovered, nor any thing to account for the putrid impregnation. On further examination, we found the water of all the springs in the neighbourhood emitted the same kind of odour, which on account of its being strongest when the tide came in, some attributed to putrid fish. The water not being in the slightest degree saline, this supposition appeared to us to be erroneous. We then inquired as to the possibility of the contents of the reservoir of the water closet getting into the well, when we were told by the mason that of late years the reservoirs had been sunk to the stratum of gravel termed the *shingles*, through which the feces escaped into the sea. This fact

fully accounted in our minds for the extraordinary putrid odour of the spring water; for part of the contents of the reservoirs sunk into the shingles above the spring, must of course escape into the wells in their direction to the sea: The circumstance of the odour being influenced by the tides, was to us confirmation of this idea; it being strongest when their escape into the sea was checked by the high tides. The salubrity of a place depending as much on the purity of the water used in articles of diet as on that of the air, we have no doubt the leading gentlemen of Worthing will lose no time in investigating this matter, and if our idea of the source of the evil, (a most serious one to invalids who visit the place for the benefit of their health) be correct, they will immediately adopt some plan of conveying the feces, &c. from the reservoirs of water closets to the sea; so as to prevent their passing into the wells. The practice of sinking the reservoirs into the shingles we also find to be common in some parts of Brighton. The water is thereby not only rendered unfit for articles of diet, but even for washing the floors of a house, the effluvia being so strong as to contaminate the air of the rooms. Nothing has contributed more to render London healthy and to keep off serious epidemic diseases, than the common sewers; and we hope ere long to see them adopted in Brighton and Worthing.

#### TOOTH POWDER.

On the recommendation of Dr. Hertz, an eminent German dentist, and on that of the late Dr. Lind, we adopted about twenty-five years since the use of the charcoal of the areca nut, as a dentifrice; and, finding it not only to remove the collection termed tartar, but to preserve the teeth from caries, we have uniformly recommended it to our friends. Dr. Lind regularly made use of this powder daily for upwards of fifty years, and, at the age of seventy-eight, he had a perfect set of teeth. The enamel of every one was sound, and he was a stranger to tooth-ache. Dr. Hertz informs us, that, finding many persons of distinction to object to the colour of the areca nut charcoal, he has been induced to torrefy the nuts, instead of charring or calcining them, by which the objection to the colour is removed, and at the same time its virtues as a dentifrice rather increased, the peculiar astringency of the nut being preserved. He directs the nut to be well torrefied, so as to border on charring, and to be very finely ground with the cortical part of the rhatany root and unexpanded petals of the red rose carefully dried. With this composition, he directs the interior and exterior surfaces of the teeth to be gently brushed every morning, once or twice a week with a hard brush, and the other days with a soft one.\* After thus cleaning the teeth, he recommends the mouth to be rinsed out with a little luke-warm water, the gums (inside and outside) the palate and even the tongue, when foul, to be washed with the tincture of the bark of the rhatany root, and the unexpanded petals of the red rose. This lotion, by constringing the vessels of the gums, prevents the spongy state which is generally considered scorbutic, and keeps the teeth firm in their sockets. It also prevents secretion or deposition termed tartar, and foster of the breath. Another great recom-

\* The hard made with Flemish bristles, and the soft with prepared goat's hair.

mendation to those who study appearances, is its rendering the colour of the gums and lips more healthy. This tooth powder we find to be a great improvement on the areca nut charcoal, being more pleasing to the eye, and the flavour more pleasant to the taste; and, at the same time, its virtues as a tooth powder equal, if not superior to it. Dr. Hertz contends, that by washing the palate and tongue (when foul) with the lotion, that it has, by sympathy, a beneficial effect on the stomach. The internal lining of the gullet and stomach is certainly a continuation of the covering of the palate and tongue; but we cannot go to the same extent as Dr. Hertz, in supposing, that a lotion applied to the internal surface of the mouth can act sympathetically or continuously on the stomach. He also states, that, by sweetening the breath, the lotion and powder have a salubrious effect on the lungs, and consequently on the whole system. The articles (powder and lotion) have this great recommendation, they are incapable of doing mischief; and whoever considers the injury that has been done by advertised tooth-powders, and the human misery they have produced, will admit this to be a very high recommendation.

A respectable gentleman, a few weeks since, favoured us with a report of the injurious effects of an advertised tooth powder. A lady, young and beautiful, after using it a few months, observed the enamel of her teeth to be very dark, and the gums very tender. The tooth powder was accordingly discontinued; but such was the injury the teeth had sustained that they all became loose, and in a few weeks, notwithstanding she had placed herself under a respectable dentist, they all fell out, so that at the age of twenty-three she was toothless!!! The tooth powder was found to contain a powerful acid, and pumice stone; the former had acted chemically on the enamel, and the latter mechanically. The composition recommended by Dr. Hertz is unquestionably perfectly innocent, and to us it appears to be a most excellent tooth powder. It possesses all the properties a tooth powder should possess; and if properly used, will doubtless preserve the teeth and gums in such a healthy condition, as to render the operation of scaling unnecessary, and to prevent the distressing diseases to which the teeth and gums are liable, viz., caries, ulceration, vascular distension, &c. Having ascertained the valuable properties of these compositions, we have ordered them and the hard and soft brushes to be kept at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly; the powder under the name of the Compound Areca Nut Powder, and the wash under the name of the Compound Rhatan Lotion. They should be kept well corked.

#### PERIODICAL MEDICAL WORKS.

We were not a little surprised on reading an assertion in Dr. Johnson's Medico-Chirurgical Review, that the doctor was the first who had brought under one view all the practical information or cases possessing merit from the other periodical journals, or what has been termed the spirit of the journals. Dr. J. not only "takes credit for having been the first in this country to strike out this new path in periodical medicine," but asserts that the editors of other journals have followed his plan "under various titles." The doctor has not adopted this said plan more than two years, and our readers well know that we have done it from the commencement of our publication, i.e.

about eleven years. In the prospectus which appears in our first number, it is stated, that we should give all the practical information of any merit from the periodical works. The plan was adopted by us nearly twenty years since in the Medical and Surgical Spectator,—a work which was instituted chiefly for that purpose. This was also the object of the monthly work entitled the Medical Intelligencer, instituted about eight or nine years since by Messrs. Burgess and Hill, and also of the Medical Magazine, published by Mrs. Cox of the Borough. We have noticed Dr. Johnson's claim to the originality of this plan, in order that he may point out the difference between his plan and that we adopted about twenty years; if any there be, we confess we have not been able to discover it.

### CIDER.

It has been ascertained, that the cakes which remain after pressing ground apples, termed the must, contain nearly as much of the peculiar acid of the apple (the malic acid) as the juice obtained from them, and that this acid is considerably increased by exposing the must (broken down) to the air for two or three days. This should be done in a dry place, to prevent its becoming musty. Farmers in Herefordshire and Devonshire regrind the must with water, to make a common cider for their servants; but the Must being deficient in saccharine matter, the liquor soon runs into the acetous fermentation, and the consequent production of vinegar is considered as a proof of strength. If an infusion of malt in boiling-water (wort), about as strong as is generally made for table-ale (between ale and table-beer), be substituted for water, the liquor, after the usual fermentation, will be superior to that of the fermented expressed juice of the apple. It will be found to possess the body which cider requires to render it pleasant and wholesome, and to preserve it in a vinous state \*. A gentleman of Herefordshire, celebrated for making good cider, ferments the expressed juice in large open vessels, containing about 500 gallons, the vessel about three parts filled with expressed juice. He allows the liquor to ferment (covered over with sacks) about three or four days, when he draws it off, within a few inches of the bottom, and throws away the dregs and the accumulation on the surface, which had formed during fermentation. The fermented liquor is then put into hogsheads, and firmly secured by a bung. This is similar to the plan on which wine is made in the south of France, and certainly superior to that of fermenting in a cask, with no other opening than a small bung-hole. The incrustation which forms on the top in an open tub, cuts off the communication with the air, and thereby prevents the escape of the spirit or volatile parts.

### OLD IRON MOULDS.

When the oxalic, or what is sold under the name of "Essential Salt of Lemon" (a composition of oxalic acid and cream of tartar), fails to remove an iron-mould, rub the part over with a little liver of sulphur and water, or a saturated solution of it, and, after remaining on a day, wash it off with warm water. This will so far deprive the article producing the mould, of its oxygen, that the acid will immediately dissolve it.

\* Sugar has been employed for this purpose, but it does not afford such a body as malt.

# GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

VOL. X.

To DECEMBER; 1, 1825.

No. 120.

## PHYSIC.

### UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS OF THE LATE DR. BAILLIE.

THE executors of the late Dr. Baillie have distributed among his friends printed copies of his unpublished Manuscripts, containing his introductory Lecture on Anatomy, the Lecture on the Nervous System he delivered *in Latin*, at the College of Physicians, and some Memorandums they found in his own hand-writing, giving a concise account of the results of his own experience and observation, agreeably to a wish expressed in the following codicil to his will, dated December 27, 1821.

"I wish my two Introductory Lectures to the course of Anatomy which I gave in Great Windmill-street, my Lecture upon the Nervous System, read before the College of Physicians, and a short account of my experience in the Practice of Medicine, to be *printed*, but not *published*. One hundred and fifty copies may be printed, of which one copy may be given to each of my more intimate medical friends, and the remainder to the Royal College of Physicians in London. They are hardly of sufficient importance to be published, and yet I am unwilling that they should be completely lost, as *something useful* may be extracted from them. They will form together a small octavo volume."

As to his Prefatory Lecture to his course of Anatomy, it differs only in words from that which was published by Dr. Hunter, the substance being the same; and that on the Nervous System is so barren of any thing like novelty, or even of a suggestion that is likely to prove of any interest either to the physiologist or physician, or lead to a discovery of any practical utility in medicine, that even his colleagues before whom he delivered it did not solicit him to publish it, nor did they consider it worthy a place in their volume of Transactions. The private memorandums of a physician who succeeded the great anatomists and physiologists, the immortal William and John Hunter, of a physician who had paid particular attention to morbid anatomy, and of one who had been in very extensive practice for about thirty years, will of course be read by the members of the medical profession, and by the observant part of the public, with such considerable degree of interest, that every word, however small, will have the full weight of its meaning. Why the Doctor should have considered the manuscripts worth printing, and not publishing, is a matter of some astonishment to us. According to a late legal decision, even the contents of a confidential written letter is *published* by being put into a letter-box; but we suspect the Doctor meant, by desiring his executors to print, but not to publish his manuscripts, that they were not to make money by selling them. The Doctor, being an enthusiastic

admirer of legitimate medicine, and a strenuous advocate for what has been termed monkish medicine, the spirit of which consists in mystification, for the purpose of securing the rights of privileged bodies, viz. the loaves and fishes, intended that the knowledge he had to convey should be confined to a certain *enlightened* body of philosophers, who suppose that a knowledge of medicine is imparted to those who can read Greek and Latin, by their tutelar god or saint.

If he really thought that "something useful" might be extracted from the collection, it would, in our opinion, have been more creditable to him as a Christian, or a friend to science, to have ordered it to be published in some periodical work, for the benefit of mankind in general, than to confine the circulation of the work to a few sordid physicians, whose success, like that of Catholic preachers, depends on the ignorance of the public. Notwithstanding the Doctor's instructions to his executors, we shall take the liberty to give his *practical* remarks publicity in his own words, under the supposition, that if we do not thereby benefit mankind, we shall pay his memory a compliment. To account for the miserable poverty in practical information the memorandums evince, we think it proper to state, that those practitioners who were *intimately* acquainted with the Doctor, considered him a mere anatomist. As such, he was assuredly great, being well acquainted with the mechanism and physiology of the human body, and with morbid structure, or what is termed "*morbid anatomy*." A knowledge of natural and morbid anatomy, and of physiology, is justly considered the basis of medicine; but surely, unless a man be practically acquainted with the characters or phenomena of diseases, with remedies, and with chemistry, he cannot be a good physician, or one that is entitled to the implicit confidence of a patient. The Doctor, when he commenced practice, had had very meagre opportunities of observing the progress of diseases, or of witnessing the effects of remedies. He indeed never pretended to be acquainted with pharmacy or chemistry, and his prescriptions were therefore very simple, and his remedies few. He seldom prescribed a chemical article in conjunction with others, because he was ignorant of the decompositions and recombinations that might take place, and surely the chemical compounds are the most active agents in the cure of diseases. Some patients prefer the advice of physicians who do not employ active chemical remedies, particularly those which in certain doses are poisonous, because, if they do no good, they will do no harm: but active or formidable disease should be met with proportionate remedies, and many a patient has lost his life by trusting to a timid practitioner: but Baillie was not of this class, for he as freely prescribed arsenic, lunar caustic, and the vegetable poisons, as any other practitioner. A patient unacquainted with medicine naturally places great confidence in the physician who is well acquainted with morbid anatomy, or has had extra-opportunities of opening dead bodies; but such physicians, seeing the diseased parts only in the last stages, are very apt to consider them as incurable, and to treat internal organic disease with mere placeboes; but such disease, originating in simple irritation, might in its commencement have been easily cured, and even when considerably advanced, its progress may be checked, and the life of the

patient not only rendered tolerable, but prolonged many years. When Doctor Baillie gave lectures on anatomy, he never entertained an idea of practising physic in the metropolis. A respectable practitioner of London lately told us, that when he was one of his class, he applied to him for his advice, a few months before he resigned his chair to Mr. Wilson, when the Doctor emphatically observed, *I am not a Physician.* The late Sir Walter Farquhar often refused to meet him in consultation on a medical case, because he considered him only as an anatomist; and the late Dr. Cheston, after being much in his company in Gloucester, and at the estate he purchased in that county, was surprised to find him so little acquainted with therapeutics, most assuredly a most important branch of medicine. A vacancy for a physician occurring, the Doctor was brought forward by a certain junto with considerable eclat. The celebrated accoucheur and relative, Sir Richard Croft, was soon afterward launched, and by the same combination, introduced to the royal family. This junto we have noticed in our account of the extraordinary death of the late Princess Charlotte of Wales and her infant!! Baillie, however, by all his biographers, is represented as a most able and experienced physician. Some biographers, like the Catholics who publish the lives of *saints*, think that "*de mortuis nil nisi bonum*," and really nothing can be more self-gratifying than to speak well of the dead; but the object of our biographical sketches, (many of which, as those of Dr. Baillie, Sir Walter Farquhar, and others, were written during their life-times,) is faithfully to pourtray eminent characters, in order to hold out to young practitioners or medical students those traits which they should imitate, and those which they should shun. Our motto is, therefore, "*de mortuis nil nisi verum*;" and were we to hold up the professional acquirements of Baillie as sufficient qualifications for a physician, we conceive we should not be doing justice to the public. However some may censure us for our impartiality, we have the satisfaction of knowing, that neither the exaggerated encomiums of a *friendly* biographer, nor the representations of an *impartial* one, can in any degree affect the condition of the deceased in the world of spirits.

In our 20th number we have given an impartial biographical sketch of the late Dr. Baillie, which he acknowledged to be perfectly correct.

The Doctor's Memoradums are introduced by the following remarks, which are given under the head of

*Some brief Observations drawn from my own Experience upon a considerable number of Diseases.*

" I have now practised as a physician for more than thirty years; and have, for the greater part of that time, been so much occupied with visiting patients, that I have seldom been able to write notes of individual cases. It has occurred to me, however, that *some advantage might be derived from my leaving a short record of the RESULTS of my experience in a considerable number of diseases.*

" I am convinced that the *most successful treatment of patients will depend upon the exertion of sagacity or good common sense, guided by a competent professional knowledge; and not by following STRICTLY the rules of practice laid down in books, even by men of*

the greatest talent and experience. It is very seldom that diseases are found pure and simple, as they are commonly described by authors: and there is almost an endless variety of constitution. The treatment must be adapted to this mixture and variety, in order to be as successful as circumstances will permit; and this allows of a very wide field for the exercise of good common sense on the part of the physician. A physician who should be guided strictly by the rules laid down in books, would be a very bad practitioner. In the following short observations on the treatment of various diseases, I shall state *impartially* the result of my experience, without entering into any speculative reasoning, which is often very fallacious."

Similar remarks on the treatment of diseases we have repeatedly made. The Doctor might have added, that diseases are often so mixed, or their leading characters so much altered, by being complicated with nervous affections and modified by constitution, that even the most experienced physicians are at a loss to give one-third of the diseases they meet with a name; and as to the young physicians of Oxford or Cambridge, although true *legitimates*, on commencing practice, they cannot give any morbid affection, local or general, a proper name; and hence the important advantage of the hepatic system of Currie and Abernethy, which, fortunately for such practitioners, is become popular. Whatever the nature, or even the seat of the disease may be, it is either a direct or indirect bilious affection; and this being ascertained to the satisfaction of the patient, the remedies are clear, viz. blue pill and purgative medicines. After the introductory observations, Dr. Baillie arranged his memorandums, exactly as we should have anticipated, viz. *anatomically*, commencing with the head, and ending with the toes. It is worthy of remark, that all anatomists have ridiculed the nosological arrangements of diseases, both ancient and modern, even the verbose one of Dr. Good.

#### *Complaints of the Head.*

" Many persons of both sexes are affected daily with head-aches, of more or less severity, for many months, and often for some years. They chiefly prevail towards the middle time of life, but occur often at an earlier period. They may take place in any part of the head, but are more commonly felt in the forehead, or over one eye, or in the back part of the head. Such head-aches I have found in general to be very little benefited by bleeding, either general or topical. In the accounts which patients have given me of the effect of this remedy, they have said, that they have either received from it no benefit at all, or that it has lasted but a few hours; or that the head-aches have even been worse after *cupping*, or the application of *leeches*. I have generally found such head-aches to be most benefited by temperate living, great attention to avoid improper diet, purgative medicines, and bitters. The best common medicine is rhubarb and soap, in such doses as to give two motions daily. A few grains of calomel, with an aperient draught, such as an infusion of senna with a drachm or two of Epsom salts given occasionally,—as, for instance, once in a fortnight or three weeks—are sometimes of much use. A due degree of exercise taken daily, both on foot and on horseback, is likewise in

some cases very serviceable. Some head-aches I have known relieved by nervous medicines, but not frequently. In some cases this complaint is relieved by no plan of medicine or management whatever, but will gradually, after some months or years, subside. The seat of such head-aches is, I believe, in the *scalp*, and *not* in the inside of the cranium. They depend chiefly for their cause upon the state of the stomach and bowels, or upon an irritable state of some of the nerves of the scalp. In most head-aches of severity, it is right to make one or two trials of the effect of topical bleeding; but not to persevere in the repetition of this measure for many months, as is often done, even though it produce no benefit.

“ The cutting the hair of the scalp very short, and the application of cold, by a large sponge wrung out of cold water and applied to the upper part of the head, will often give great temporary relief when the skin has been previously hot.”

More loose remarks on a disease of a part of the body we never met with in the whole course of our reading. Now as the Doctor had been successful in “ *some* cases,” and unsuccessful in “ *some* others,” surely he ought to have noticed the age and constitution of the patients, particularly as to plenitude, depletion, obesity, emaciation, &c. The abstraction of blood by leeches or by cupping, generally aggravates the head-ache of elderly people, and relieves that of youth. As to his supposition that head-ache, which he has observed not to be relieved by medicine or *any* management whatever, but which, after some months or years, *gradually* subsided, being seated in the scalp, and not in the inside of the skull, there is no variety of head-ache more easily discovered than that of the scalp: the seat is evident on external examination: it is generally rheumatic and easily cured by stimulating liniments (as the cajeput or camphorated volatile liniment), with attention to the state of the stomach, intestines, and dress.

#### *Apoplexy.*

“ This disease, in its most severe form, depends commonly upon blood being poured out into the *substance* of the brain from *some ruptured* blood vessel. This generally takes place in the medullary substance, near one of the lateral ventricles, but it may occur in any part of the brain. The milder forms of apoplexy depend upon a distention of some of the vessels of the brain, from an undue accumulation of blood in them. I have known, however, one instance of fatal apoplexy where many of the blood-vessels were found, upon examination after death, to be much distended with blood, but *no* blood had been extravasated in any part of the brain. Q. Had the patient been bled?

“ The chief remedy in apoplexy is *large* bleeding, to be repeated according to circumstances. Topical bleeding by cupping and leeches is likewise often of use. The next remedies in importance are purgative medicines of considerable power, and acrid glysters. The head should be kept high or elevated, and cold may be applied with advantage to the top of the head. If the patient should recover by these means, the best plan of management, in order to escape from another attack, is to live almost entirely throughout future life upon vegetable food, and to abstain from wine, spirits, and malt liquor. It

will be of considerable advantage to avoid any strong or long-continued exertion of the mind. In a few instances, when the full state of the vessels of the brain had for some time subsided, I have derived considerable advantage, from the moderate use of tonic medicines, and more especially of steel."

Steel is a medicine which we think few experienced practitioners would prescribe to promote convalescence after an attack of apoplexy, unless indeed the patient be of a leucophlegmatic habit; and in such case, a vegetable diet would be highly improper. As a preventive treatment, we would recommend an issue or seton in the nape of the neck, occasional use of an active purgative medicine, a pinch of the compound asarabacca snuff once a-day, an abstemious diet, and thick worsted stockings.

### *Watery Head (Hydrocephalus.)*

" I have known in *my own* experience but one instance of this disease being cured, when *fully* formed. In this case all the symptoms were well marked, and the disease had made such progress that squinting and an irregular pulse had taken place. There had been no *peculiar* treatment, except that mercurial ointment was applied daily to a *considerable sore* on the upper part of the head, which had been produced there by a blister. The individual is now alive, and is a young lady of good talents, which she has highly cultivated.

" I have seen a few cases, in which there appeared to be a strong threatening of hydrocephalus, that got well by the application of leeches and blisters to the head, and brisk mercurial purges; but I cannot determine whether these cases, if *less actively* treated, would have terminated in *true* hydrocephalus or not."

### *Epilepsy.*

" This disease appears to me to have become much more frequent within the last twenty years than formerly. If this remark be generally true, it may perhaps be accounted for by the progress of luxury, which must render the nervous system more irritable. I have known very few instances of epilepsy *radically* cured; but a considerable number of cases in which the intervals between the attacks have been rendered much longer. The medicines which have appeared to me to have most influence in removing or retarding the attacks of epilepsy have been the lunar caustic, mistletoe of the oak, and the castor oil."(!!) " Of these, the first is the most powerful; but, when it has been used for *a good many months*, it tinges the skin of some individuals of a dark colour. I have known two instances of this effect from it in my own experience. The bowels, too, should always be kept open, and the effect of brisk purgatives should be tried in the beginning of the disease.

" It is of great use, in the treatment of epilepsy, that the patient should live *very temperately*, and should avoid *every thing* which may tend suddenly to excite or to harass the mind. Patients should eat animal food sparingly, and should abstain from wine, ale, and porter altogether. The hair should be cut short, and cold applications should be applied to the head whenever the skin of it feels hot. This

management is often of much use in rendering the attacks both less frequent and less violent. The causes producing epilepsy are various; but I believe that in this disease there is constantly a tendency to a greater accumulation of blood than is natural in the vessels of the brain."

The Doctor having paid particular attention to morbid anatomy, it appears strange to us that he should not have noticed some of the diseased appearances which the brains of epileptic subjects have exhibited on dissection. The cause of epilepsy is generally seated in the brain, and when so, all that medicine can do is, to increase, as the Doctor observes, the "intervals between the attacks." It, however, sometimes arises from disordered stomach or intestines, the consequence of indigestion in peculiar nervous subjects disposed to convulsions, which is easily cured by stomachic and vermifuge medicines.

#### *Tic Douloureux.*

"The tic douloureux seems to me likewise to have become more common of late years, and I think it is more frequent among men than women. I do not recollect to have seen any instance in which it has been *permanently* cured, either by internal medicines or by an operation. I have known some instances of its being cured for a time (that is, for several months, or even a year), by medicines; and those which have appeared to me of most use are Peruvian bark and arsenio. The operation of dividing the nerve has in some instances prevented a return of the disease for one or two years, but has not, as far as I know, prevented it permanently. The courage and patience under suffering in this complaint, displayed by some individuals, have been truly astonishing."

This memorandum was written in the year 1819, before the carbonate of iron in large doses was recommended by Mr. Hutchinson, but not before the belladonna was extolled by Mr. Bailly, of Harwich, as an infallible remedy for this disease. The Doctor having witnessed the temporary good effect of the carbonate of iron in the case of his friend Dr. Pemberton, we are surprised he did not make some addition to this article. The Doctor, however, like many of his class, paid so little attention to modern discoveries in therapeutics, that he never read the periodical medical journals!

#### *Of some Diseases of the Neck.*

"The most common disease in the neck is the swelling of one or more lymphatic glands. This is most apt to take place in young persons who have fair complexions and delicate constitutions. It is always a very tedious disease, and is seldom much benefited by medicine. The remedies which I have found of most use have been sarsaparilla combined with soda, Peruvian bark combined with soda, and some forms of steel. These medicines will, however, often have but a very imperfect influence upon the complaint. Sea air and tepid sea-water bathing are often beneficial; but I think that the air and waters of Great Malvern are more useful than any other remedy. I have known a good many cases which had been but little improved by the common remedies; and by a residence upon the sea-coast, with all its advantages, which

have afterwards got quite well by the patients residing three or four months at Great Malvern."

The swelling the Doctor notices was scrofulous. The Malvern water and air have unquestionably proved very beneficial in correcting the scrofulous habit; and the water, although it appears to contain nothing in solution that can be termed medicinal, (being nearly as free from any combination as distilled water,) is the only one in Europe that has evinced any thing like an antiscrofulous virtue. The late Sir Walter Farquhar and the late Dr. Cheston of Gloucester, have frequently observed to us that the scrofulous patients they sent to Malvern for three or four months, returned perfectly free from any symptom of the disease, although some of them had, at the time they went, strong symptoms of incipient consumption of the lungs. Dr. Baillie was not acquainted with iodine when he wrote the preceding article.

### *Wen (Bronchocele.)*

"This disease is not very uncommon in this country: it is more frequent among women than men, and much more so among young than old persons. It is not often much benefited by medicine, but will frequently disappear of itself. Sometimes the swelling grows, even in this country, to an enormous size; and I have known one or two cases in which the patient was destroyed by the swelling compressing the windpipe and gullet. The medicines which I have found of most use have been burnt sponge, soda, and mercury, used externally, either as an ointment or in the form of plaster."

We presume the burnt sponge and soda (subcarbonate) were administered by the mouth, and the mercury applied externally. We have added subcarbonate, because we know he was in the habit of prescribing it in cases of wen, and because "soda" is a most powerful caustic, and when taken into the stomach, even in the dose of a few grains, excites considerable nausea. Iodine, which has been found of late years so very beneficial in the cure of wen, the Doctor never prescribed, probably because the name does not appear in the works of Hippocrates, Galen, or the Records of the London College of Physicians !!

### *Chronic Inflammation of the Windpipe and Larynx.*

"This disease occurs frequently in this country, and, upon the whole, I think is more common among men than women. It is often confined to the inner membrane of the larynx and the upper part of the windpipe; but frequently it spreads downwards, even to the inner membrane of its branches, the bronchia. This disease always continues several months, and often, with short intervals of amendment, for years. Not unfrequently it lays the foundation of future consumption. Remedies generally produce only a very gradual influence upon the disease, and sometimes none at all. Benefit is not unfrequently derived in some degree from the repeated application, at short intervals, of leeches to the fore part of the neck, or the skin covering the upper bone of the sternum. The frequent application of small blisters to the same parts will occasionally be of use; but perhaps the most useful remedy is a small seton inserted under the skin of the side of the neck, very near

the larynx. Internal medicines often produce very little good effect; but the medicine which I have found, upon the whole, to be the most beneficial, has been the extract of hemlock. I have sometimes directed five grains of it to be taken three times a-day, for many weeks together, with manifest advantage."!!

The remedies which have proved most beneficial in this disease, are the oxymel of the colchicum seeds (two or three tea-spoonsful two or three times a-day, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of the Iceland moss or infusion of the buchu leaves), and inhalation of oxygene (a gallon) once or twice a-day. Reviewers generally give Dr. Badcock credit for having first noticed this disease. His book on it appeared in the year 1810, whereas we published a description of it, in a treatise on the Iceland Moss, in 1802.

### Quinsy.

" I have but one observation to make with regard to this disease, which is of some little importance. It is usual to endeavour, throughout the course of it, to prevent suppuration from taking place, by the repeated application of leeches under the angles of the lower jaw. It is certainly very desirable that suppuration should be prevented, and that inflammation of the tonsils should gradually subside by resolution. I have found, however, by experience, that suppuration is by such means very often not prevented, but only that inflammation proceeds more slowly to this issue. Hence the patient suffers for a considerably longer time; and the suffering in this disease is often very great. If, therefore, one or two applications of leeches do not lessen materially the inflammation of the tonsils and of the soft palate, I should recommend the progress of the inflammation to be encouraged by the inhaling of warm vapour into the mouth, and the application of poultices to the external fauces. In this way the disease will go through its progress more quickly, and the patient will suffer much less."

### Some Diseases of the Chest.

" I have very little to say either with respect to pleurisy or inflammation of the lungs. The earlier, after inflammation has taken place in the pleura or in the lungs, that blood is taken away from the arm, the sooner will the disease be subdued. Blood should in these diseases be taken away largely, and, if necessary, should be repeated again and again after short intervals. All other remedies are insignificant in comparison of the abstraction of blood from the system. (! !!)

" When this remedy has not been applied early enough, nor in sufficient quantity, and an abscess has been formed in the lungs, which has burst, patients have, in the greater number of instances that I have seen, recovered but very slowly. Under these circumstances, the medical attendant has little to do but avoid mischief. The constitution should be moderately supported, without being too much stimulated. Moderate doses of myrrh, decoction of bark, or infusion of some bitter, are sometimes of use. Light animal diet, and even a little wine, are sometimes useful in such cases; but great care should be taken that no new inflammation be excited.

" In the course of my experience throughout many years, I have

known a few instances of abscess being formed *in the lungs*, without any previous pain in the chest, or difficulty of breathing, or observable fever. Such patients, upon some exertion of the body, or even without any exertion, have suddenly coughed up a considerable quantity, (perhaps half a pint or more) of pus; and this has been to the patient the first intimation of disease. In such cases the inflammation of the lungs *must* have proceeded *so slowly* as to have produced little or no pain in the chest, and not to have alarmed the constitution so as to excite fever." (!!!)

### *Pulmonary Consumption.*

" In the course of my medical experience, I have known one or two cases of patients who recovered from phthisis which was apparently fully formed. It is probable, however, that with regard to these cases *I may have been mistaken*; and that, *if* I had inquired with sufficient accuracy into their history, I should have found that they were small abscesses of the lungs, of a *common*, and not of a *scrofulous* nature.

" I have known a good many instances in which persons threatened with consumption have recovered by going into mild climates, or even into Devonshire or Cornwall; but I do not recollect a single instance in which they recovered when the disease had decidedly been formed. Change of air should be adopted very early, in order to give it the best chance of success. Such a variety of accounts have been given by patients, and even by medical gentlemen, of the comparative advantage of one place over another abroad, that I have found it impossible to decide which is to be preferred. I am disposed, however, to think that Madeira, the Hyeres, some parts of Portugal, Malaga, Nice, and Naples, are the best. It is very possible that different places may suit better with the constitutions of different individuals; and this conjecture, if well founded, may explain the cause of there being such a variety of opinions upon the subject. A patient should, *if possible*, spend two or three successive winters abroad, in order to give the best chance of the disposition to the disease being subdued. (!)

" When no active inflammation is going on in the chest in phthisis, I have sometimes found advantage from patients being allowed to take a little *white fish or light animal food at dinner*. (! !) In a very few instances I have found benefit derived from their taking *one, or even two*, glasses of wine, diluted with water, after dinner; but wine is generally improper. (! !)

" I have known of no medicine which has been of *permanent* and *substantial* use in phthisis; but I have sometimes found a good deal of temporary advantage derived from myrrh, from ammonia, and from light bitters united to the acetic acid. The frequent repetition of blisters, or a seton inserted *under* the skin in some part of the chest, are occasionally of considerable use." (! !)

### *Water in the Chest.*

" When dropsy of the chest does not depend upon any diseased structure of the heart or lungs, I have found it much more readily affected by medicine than ascites or dropsy of the ovary. Not

unfrequently, under these circumstances, I have known water of the chest relieved, or for a time cured, by medicine.

“ The medicine which I have found most beneficial, has been mercury combined with squills and foxglove. Five grains of the blue pill, combined with one grain of the *dried* powder of squills, and half a grain of the dried powder of foxglove, given twice or thrice a-day, have, in many cases under my care, either very much mitigated or for a time removed the disease. There has been some advantage from the mercury affecting slightly the salivary glands. Squills and foxglove are by themselves much less efficacious than when combined with mercury.

“ I do not recollect one instance of hydrothorax being permanently cured, although I remember a good many cases in which the symptoms were repeatedly removed by the same means in the same patient.

“ Where the difficulty of breathing has been very great, and the legs and thighs have been much swelled from anasarca, I have known much relief afforded by a scarificator and small cupping-glass being applied above the inner and outer ankle of each leg; and I do not remember any mortification attacking these small sores. The difficulty of breathing in such cases probably depended in part upon the water accumulated in the cellular membrane of some parts within the chest, and this was gradually emptied through the small openings made in the skin of the legs.”

### *Pectoral Angina.*

“ This distressing disease almost constantly depends upon an ossification of the coronary arteries of the heart, and admits of no effectual relief from medicine. I have met with two cases, however, in the course of my *medical* experience, in which symptoms exactly resembling those of angina pectoris depended upon an imperfect digestion; and the patients ultimately recovered entirely, by correcting the disordered condition of the stomach.

### *Dropsy in the Belly.*

“ With respect to this disease I have *very little to say*. (! !) When it depends upon a morbid state of any of the abdominal viscera,—as, for instance, the liver or the spleen,—it is never permanently removed, and very seldom even relieved, till the morbid condition of these viscera is cured, if this event should *fortunately* take place. Even where the viscera in the abdomen are sound, or at least cannot be discovered by an accurate examination to be otherwise, dropsy of the belly is rarely, according to my experience, cured by medicine. The ordinary diuretic medicines, as squills and foxglove, have commonly very little effect upon it. The medicines which I think, upon the whole, to have most influence upon this species of dropsy, are super-tartrate of potash and small doses of elaterium. In two, or perhaps three cases, during my medical experience, ascites has gradually got well without medicine, after the common remedies had been sufficiently tried and had failed. I can entertain no doubt, from some *late* publications, that taking away blood from the arm will often be a valuable remedy in dropsy of the belly, where there has been *too much* arterial

action, or even some degree of inflammation, in the early part of the disease; but of this I have not had sufficient personal experience to enable me to appreciate its value." (!!!)

### *Inflammation of the Membrane covering the Intestines, which takes place in Puerperal Fever.*

" Where this disease has not been connected with any peculiarity of season, or any epidemical complaint, I have found it to be cured by bleeding and purging, like other inflammations. Upon the whole, however, I think that it has been more relieved by repeated applications of leeches, than by general bleeding. (!!) I do not wish it to be understood that general bleeding is of no advantage in peritonitis, for sometimes it produces the greatest benefit. I think, however, that in most cases, more benefit will be derived from the repeated application of leeches, according to circumstances, than from a repetition of the general bleeding. The purgative medicines which have appeared to me to be of most value, are calomel and the neutral salts."

### *Affections of the Stomach.*

" There is no complaint more common in this country than an imperfect condition of the functions of the stomach. This generally shows itself by more or less of flatulence, by acidity, by a bitter taste occasionally felt in the mouth, and often by some degree of costiveness. This condition of the stomach generally arises from *something* wrong in the *quantity* or *quality* of the food—from anxiety of mind—and from a due degree of exercise not being regularly taken. It makes its progress very gradually, continues always for some months, and often even, more or less, for years.

" The first object of attention should be to remove, *as far as possible*, the causes which produce it. *Every kind* of food should be avoided which the patients may have found, from *THEIR OWN* experience, to have disagreed with their stomach. Most commonly, animal food that is very fat, or much salted or fried, is difficult of digestion, and should either be eaten very sparingly, or should be altogether avoided. Young and white animal food is in general more difficult of digestion than what is brown and of middle age. The vegetables which are eaten should be *very well* boiled, and should be taken sparingly by such persons as are subject to flatulence or acidity. The *waxy* potatoe is almost constantly very difficult of digestion, and in general should be avoided altogether. There should never be so much food taken at a time as to give the feeling of fulness or distension in the stomach; and, except under very particular circumstances, there is no advantage in eating oftener than three or four times in twenty-four hours. The best common beverage in disordered conditions of the stomach is water, or toast and water; and three or four glasses of wine may be taken at or after dinner, according to the habits of the patient, or other circumstances. That wine is to be preferred which agrees best with the stomach, of which he is himself the most competent judge. Daily exercise is almost constantly necessary, in order to preserve good digestion. Riding on horseback is upon the whole the best, for it gives a motion to the abdominal viscera which

no other exercise is capable of; but walking is also very useful. A combination of the two is preferable to either; for riding on horseback chiefly exercises the abdominal viscera, and walking chiefly exercises the limbs and the thoracic viscera. Anxiety of mind should be avoided, whenever it can fairly be done; but it is often impossible to take advantage of this remedy. (!!)

" With respect to medicines, there are none for this complaint which can be called specific. The most beneficial, however, which I have known are rhubarb, and some form of bitter medicine combined with alkalies. Eight grains of rhubarb formed into pills with soap, taken every night at bed-time, and some bitter, as infusion of cascara, calumbo, quassia, or gentian, with some grains of soda or potass dissolved in it, taken in the morning and before dinner, will often be very useful in this kind of disordered stomach. These remedies should be continued for five or six weeks at a time, should be omitted for two or three weeks, and occasionally resumed. If the alvine evacuations should be considerably lighter in their colour, or much darker than natural, mercury, given in moderate doses, and not for so long a time as to injure the constitution, will often be of great use. The *large and indiscriminate* employment of mercury in complaints of the stomach has, I think, been often very hurtful. Where acidity has been particularly prevalent in the stomach, I have sometimes found it more effectually corrected by the diluted mineral acids than by alkalies. Ten or twelve drops of the diluted sulphuric or diluted nitric acid, mixed with an infusion of some bitter, and taken twice a day, will sometimes be very beneficial in this condition of the stomach.

" There is an affection of the stomach in which the digestion is very imperfect, and in which considerable quantities of a transparent viscid mucus is formed. This often produces nausea, and is occasionally brought up by vomiting. According to my experience, this condition of the stomach has been frequently little benefited by medicine; but sometimes I have found the compound tincture of benzoin of considerable use. A drachm of it may be taken, mixed with water and some mucilage of gum arabic, three times a day.

" There is another affection of the stomach, less common than the former, but far more serious, viz. where the stomach throws up in large quantity a fluid like cocoa. A quart of this fluid will often be thrown up at a time; and this will frequently be repeated for many days together. This condition of the stomach is sometimes connected with a diseased state of the liver, but sometimes it is independent of it, there being, at least apparently, no disease in this latter organ. In several instances it has proved fatal; but in others, and especially in two cases which I recollect, the complaint subsided for several months at a time, and the persons enjoyed in the intervals tolerable health. This state continued many years, and the patients are still alive. In one case I had an opportunity of examining the condition of the stomach after death. It was very capacious, and was half filled with this brown fluid, but did not appear to be at all diseased in its structure. The neighbouring viscera, as the liver and spleen, were (as far as I recollect !!) perfectly sound. The fluid will appear to be formed by a

diseased secretion of the inner membrane of the stomach, without any apparent morbid structure.

“ This disease, according to my experience, is but very little influenced by medicine or by diet. In two or three cases, some benefit seemed to be derived from astringent medicines combined with moderate doses of opium—as, for instance, from tincture of kino, or tincture of catechu, with a few drops of laudanum, taken three or four times a-day. The bowels should be at the same time kept free from costiveness.

“ In some cases the stomach will lose almost entirely the power of digestion; the patients will become pale and emaciated, and appear as if they were affected by some fatal visceral disease: at the same time no morbid structure in the region of the stomach or liver can be detected, by the most attentive examination. In some of these cases, the patients have been completely restored to health by a course of the Bath waters.”

This article contains some valuable practical remarks. Our readers will perceive, that on many points we have given the same advice. The dose of the dilute sulphuric acid is much too great, six drops being in general more than the stomach of a dyspeptic patient will bear. As to the nitric acid, we have always found it to disorder the stomach.

### *Inflammation of the Bowels.*

“ Of this very formidable disease I have very little to observe. Where the symptoms had been fully formed, the greater number of cases which I have seen have terminated fatally. One case, however, in which the vomiting was of stercoraceous matter, recovered. The chief remedy in this very dangerous disease, is bleeding largely, both from the system and topically by leeches. It is very desirable that the inflammation should be subdued, or at least be much lessened, before any active purgative be administered. A purgative during the violence of the inflammation will rarely produce any evacuation, and may even do some injury, by stimulating a part still highly inflamed. Fomentations have been very commonly applied to the belly, and they give some temporary relief. I am *inclined* to think that cold applications may be useful in assisting to subdue the inflammation; but this I have not hitherto tried. The tobacco glyster, and *cold* water thrown *upon* the lower limbs, have in some cases excited the bowels to action, when very powerful purgatives had failed.” (!!)

### *Dysentery,*

“ In this disease, opiate and astringent medicines have sometimes appeared to me to be administered too early. Mild purgative medicines (of which I think castor-oil, upon the whole, the best) should be administered till the alvine evacuations have become free from mucus and blood, and have recovered in a considerable degree the appearance of a natural fluid motion. Astringent medicines, with opium, may *then* be directed with much advantage. As there is *always* an inflammatory condition of the bowels in this disease, leeches may be

applied to the seat of the sigmoid flexure of the colon, and the upper extremity of the rectum, with a considerable chance of benefit."

The remainder of the Doctor's memorandums we shall give in our next Number.

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### SCROFULA.

A great difference of opinion exists among the faculty of this country as to the power of iodine, in correcting the scrofulous habit, or in subduing or suspending scrofulous action; some contending that it is an invaluable antiscrofulous remedy; and others asserting, that it has no such property. This discrepancy of opinions will admit of satisfactory explanation. Not one practitioner in fifty prepares the system for its use. If the disease be clearly scrofulous, they immediately have recourse to the remedy, without thinking that the disease in a *scrofulous* habit is often brought into action by a disordered stomach, irregular intestines, or disturbed nervous system; and as long as either exists, it is unreasonable to expect a specific remedy to produce any corrective or salutary effect. The fact that scrofula is brought into action by indigestion, or by improper diet, clearly shews the necessity of correcting the state of the stomach and intestines, or of improving the state of the nervous system, previously to the exhibition of the specific. Iodine is neither stomachic nor aperient; but, when indigestion exists, it will greatly disorder the stomach, and aggravate local scrofulous disease; besides, when the stomach does properly perform its office, a fermentative process takes place in it, which will destroy the medicinal virtues of iodine, or combinations will form with the acid, &c. productions which will render it altogether inert. When the digestive organs are brought into a healthy state, and the bowels are regular, if attention be paid to diet during the use of iodine, we will venture to assert, that it will clearly manifest a specific action on scrofulous affections, provided the structure of the part has not undergone a morbid change; and even in that case, it will suspend diseased action, and render the complaint quiescent for life.

Dr. Manson, physician to the General Hospital, and St. Mary's Hospital and Dispensary in Nottingham, (whose reports of the efficacy of iodine in scrofula, we noticed in our last Number) has given the tincture of iodine a fair trial in scrofula; and as the Doctor is one of the few rational observant physicians, whose discriminating powers are not influenced by any hepatic or *mimosis* theory, or flights of fancy, we have pleasure in introducing into our work the following case of scrofula, which was under his care.

" Mary Wride, aged twenty-three years, (a lace mender) was admitted an out-patient of the General Hospital, on the first of April, 1823; she had been affected with scrofulous swellings of the neck for *eleven years*, principally on the left side. The glands had attained a size to occasion an appearance of deformity. Some of the tumours were slightly painful. She stated that she had been under the care of different practitioners, and that the late celebrated surgeon, Mr. Hay, of Leeds, was consulted about ten years

since respecting her case, and that she had derived no benefit from any of the means that had been employed. Her bowels were generally tardy. Her hair and eyes dark, complexion swarthy, upper lip thick and chapped." The Doctor prescribed ten grains of the compound gamboge pill (divided into two pills) to be taken every night, in order to keep the bowels in a regular state, and twenty drops of the tincture of iron, to be taken three times a day in a glass of pure water. The pills had the desired effect. She continued the medicines for nearly three weeks (till April 18th), when the tumours were evidently smaller and softer. The Doctor ordered the medicines to be continued, and the size of a large nutmeg (a drachm) of the following ointment, to be rubbed over the tumours every night:—

Take of fresh hog's lard, one ounce;

Tincture of iodine, one drachm.—

To be well mixed.

When the patient applied at the hospital on the 9th of May, the glands were very much reduced in size, and were less painful. Her general health was improved. The Doctor ordered the medicines (internal and external) to be repeated.

On the 23d of May, when he again saw her, the swellings were less, and the glands were more distinct. The Doctor ordered the remedies to be continued. On the sixth of June, the glands were very considerably reduced. The medicines agreed with the stomach. She and her friends were sensible of great amendment. The medicines were ordered to be repeated. June 20th, the tumours and the thickening of the upper lip were much reduced. July the 4th, the glands were diminished considerably, and her general health improved. The Doctor ordered her to persist in the use of the remedies.

July 18th, she stated that she had been in the country since her last visit. The glands were considerably reduced, although she had not used the medicines.

September 19th, the swellings were so much reduced as not to be evident to the eye. Her general health improved. As the patient had not been regular in her attendance at the hospital, being now nearly well, the doctor ordered her a supply of the medicines to last a fortnight, when she was discharged cured." This case, in consequence of the length of time the patient had been afflicted, is, in our opinion, decisive of the antiscrofulous powers of iodine. Dr. M. has, however, prescribed the tincture of iodine in other cases with the same success. He has particularly noticed three cases of scrofulous ulcers, in which the exhibition of the tincture, with a simple topical application (common cerate), succeeded in effecting a cure. He is satisfied that it possesses the power of correcting scrofula. He represents it to be a valuable tonic in scrofulous cases. The improvement of the general health in scrofulous subjects during its use, we attribute to its effects in correcting the scrofulous habit, and in dispersing obstruction of the mesenteric glands, and not to any tonic effect on the stomach or system. Scrofulous action takes place in the robust as well as in the debilitated; and in the latter, the use of tonics will also be necessary. The idea of its being a disease of debility, we conceive to be erroneous.

## SURGERY.

Some medical gentlemen flatter themselves they have made an extraordinary discovery, that we have introduced diseases in our surgical department which belong to the province of the physician! It is certainly a difficult task to draw a line of demarcation between the departments of physic and surgery. Organic diseases, and those that are sympathetic of organic mischief, we consider to belong to surgery, and for our authority we refer to the works of Hippocrates, who by the legitimate or monkish physicians is honoured with the distinguished title of "Father of Medicine." Primitive medicine was indeed chiefly surgical, and the person ignorant of surgery who styles himself a physician, is in our opinion an impostor, and no more entitled to the confidence of a patient, let his disease be what it may, than the most ignorant quack. The diseases that are cured by surgical remedies we also consider to belong to this department. Of this we are well satisfied, that in proportion as the public becomes enlightened on the subject of medicine, and becomes acquainted with the artifices of the pretended legitimates, or *fee-hunters*, the applicants to surgeons for advice in cases strictly medical, or belonging to the province of the physician, will increase; and probably the time is not far distant when physicians, legitimate or illegitimate, who are ignorant of the very important branches of medicine, surgery, and chemistry, will be expelled the medical world as a contemptible set of impostors; and instead of attempting to regulate the profession, or extort money from properly-educated practitioners, their names will be transmitted to posterity with those of Drs. Solomon, Brodum, Eady, Jordan, and the *justly-celebrated Dr. Warren*, the shining doctor of shoes and boots.

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## COMPOUND FRACTURE OF THE LEG.

The hospital surgeons of the present day differ much in opinion as to the *time* when amputation should be performed in a case of bad compound fracture of a thigh or leg. Mr. Abernethy, in his Lectures on Surgery, observes, "I should rather defer operating, *if possible*, until the day *after* the accident, or the *next evening*. The constitution," says he, "has sustained a very severe shock by the injury, and the *additional* shock of the operation, *before* the patient has recovered from the first, would in many cases extinguish life. (!!) I know," says he, "the practice of immediate operation would not succeed among *Londoners*, for there are very few of *them* capable of sustaining such a two-fold injury. I should say, wait: tell the patient you will leave it until the *next* day: let him recover a little, and prepare his mind for it. If you find the circumstances are not more urgent on the *second* day, say, you will put it off a little longer. It is (continued the lecturer, with an elevated voice) astonishing to see what little impression a large wound, such as that formed in amputation, will make on the system, when it has been for some time *previously* suffering from considerable irritation. Amputation of a limb from a man in *full health* is known by experience to be a

very dangerous thing, and therefore I should recommend you to wait a little after the receipt of a violent injury, before you perform it." This advice appears very plausible to pupils who have seen little practice. The system at the time of the accident very rarely receives any shock, the circulation and nervous system not being disturbed for a day or two, or until such a degree of local irritation has taken place to disturb it, or occasion what is termed sympathetic fever. Surely, then, it would be ridiculous to postpone the operation, in order that the body may recover from the *shock*, or until the system is sympathetically disturbed. Is it likely the system can recover from a shock by delay, when it has to encounter a serious fever? As to the little impression the large wound, from amputation of a limb, produces on the system, whoever considers that the wound is covered by bringing the skin into contact, so as to appear like a simple incised wound, and that in fact it continues only a few hours, in consequence of the rapid process of adhesion, will not be surprised at the little constitutional disturbance that follows amputation of a limb, when integuments are saved sufficient to cover the end of the bone, and when the stump is properly dressed. The little impression produced on the system, although in a state of irritation by amputation, may, again, be attributed to the removal of the injured limb, which kept up the constitutional disturbance, or general irritation.

As to the result of Mr. Abernethy's experience in amputating a limb from a person in full health, we should suppose that such a subject was also likely to suffer considerably by delay from sympathetic fever, and that during the fever mortification would very likely take place. Extensive experience has proved this to be a fact. When the patient is in perfect health, may not his system, after the operation, be as reduced by bleeding, purging, sudorific medicines and low diet, as to render it unsusceptible of the *shock* of amputation, as effectually as by the irritative or debilitating effect of the injured limb? We lately attended a man of a full habit and in good health, who met with a terrible compound fracture of the leg. The bones were so shattered, and the integuments so lacerated and contused, that there could be no question as to the absolute necessity of amputation. The operation was performed in about two hours after the accident. The patient was copiously bled, and no time was lost in administering an active purgative. Whenever the pulse became full, blood was immediately abstracted, so that during the first week he lost no less than twelve pounds of blood. An anodyne febrifuge medicine was administered every three hours, and a purgative one almost daily. In one month the stump was perfectly healed, and the patient at this time enjoys good health. He had an important advantage, which patients cannot command in a London hospital, viz. a spacious well-ventilated room.

We have made the preceding remarks, to introduce a case of compound fracture of a leg, which was lately admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, under the care of Mr. Laurance, who was formerly a house pupil to Mr. Abernethy. The patient (Joseph Dean) was aged 58. He was steepleman of Shoreditch Church. Having to ascend the belfry to turn the clappers, previously to the commencement of ringing, one of

the ringers unfortunately pulled a rope, and the bell to which it was attached, jammed the leg between it and the frame-work. In this situation the poor man was under the necessity of remaining until the bell could be raised, by means of a windlass, which occupied upwards of half an hour. The fracture was about four inches below the knee-joint, and extended obliquely upwards through the part of the tibia termed the tuberosity. The integuments were much lacerated, and with the soft parts the tibial artery suffered, the haemorrhage that ensued was not considerable. Mr. Laurance, after ascertaining the extent of the mischief, deemed immediate amputation necessary. He accordingly performed the operation *above* the knee. The case went on so very favourably, that in a few weeks the patient was discharged, cured.

Had Mr. Laurance been a blind follower or admirer of his teacher, and postponed the operation, in order that the system might have time to recover from the shock of the accident, and to amuse his mind with contemptible nonsense, we suspect the result would not have been so fortunate to the unfortunate patient.

In another case of bad compound fracture of the leg received into Bartholomew's hospital, Mr. Vincent, the surgeon for the week, declined to operate, for two reasons, viz. because the patient (a man) was 72 years of age, and in a state of intoxication. The fracture was reduced, and bound up in the usual way. The man slept well, but on the following morning he had symptoms of commencing fever. Mr. Vincent removed the bandages and dresses, and after looking at the limb, bound it up again. In the evening he was feverish, the pulse, which was full and hard, running on at the rate of 120. The injured part was very painful. The saline mixture, with antimonial wine (20 drops), was administered every six hours. He slept well, as he stated, although muttering and groaning all night. His bowels were relaxed—breathing very difficult. In the evening the pulse became irregular, after which he gradually sunk, till the vital spark was extinguished.

Here we may with propriety notice a plan of treating compound fractures adopted by Mr. Mudge, of Plymouth, the object of which is to convert, as it were, a compound fracture into a simple one, by closing very carefully the external wound, and retaining the edges in contact, and then varnishing the surface, so that the fractured bones may be covered nearly as effectually as by the whole integuments. Of this plan Mr. Abernethy has expressed his warm approbation, but we believe he has never adopted it. He says, "if the escape of the coagulated blood can thus be prevented, the parts may heal by the adhesive process, instead of by granulation. Such a treatment can only be adopted when the integuments have sustained little injury. If they have been much contused, no surgeon of experience would think of bringing the edges into contact, and afterwards varnishing the surface. The edges of the wound of a compound fracture are always more or less contused, and, consequently, if the surface should not be very superficially shaved off, adhesion is not likely to take place. We do not mean to say, in our prefatory remarks, that a compound fractured limb should be immediately amputated; we mean, that when it is so much shattered that there is no prospect of saving the

limb, it is better to amputate immediately than to defer the operation till the system sympathises with it, or the general health is disturbed. In the fever occasioned by a compound fracture, the brain and nervous system are very much disturbed, and more is to be dreaded from it than from the wound in cases where immediate amputation is not necessary. It is an extraordinary fact, that in the London Hospitals compound fractures very rarely do well, whilst in the provincial Hospitals the surgeons never think of amputating even a bad compound fracture. During our residence at the Hereford Infirmary, many bad compound fractures were admitted, and the limbs were all saved, whilst at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, compound fractures much less formidable were consigned to the knife, and we have no recollection of one having recovered after the operation !!

## RHEUMATISM, TIC DOULOUREUX, AND ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

Mr. Deck, a scientific chemist of Cambridge, informs us that he has employed galvanism, as directed by the scientific Mr. La Beaume, in a case of debility of the left leg of long standing, with complete success. Dr. Bailly, physician to the *Hôpital de la Pitié*, and a Mons. Meyranx, have published in the last number of the *Archives Générales*, the following cases of Rheumatism, *Tic Douloureux*, and St. Vitus's Dance, which were cured by galvanico-acupuncture, i. e. the galvanic fluid, applied by means of needles, passed through the skin, or introduced in the same manner as in the operation of acupuncture.

### Sciatica (Rheumatism in the Thigh.)

"A man advanced in life, who had taken great liberties with his constitution, had for some time suffered from rheumatism. About six months ago, having exposed himself to damp weather, he was seized with a rheumatic affection through the whole course of the right thigh. At first the pain was rather of a dull, heavy nature, but after continuing several months it became more acute, and increased until he was scarcely able to move the hip joint. A needle was planted in the middle of this joint, another was placed in the inferior surface, and a galvanic communication established by two conducting threads. The sensation and contraction produced through the whole extent of the affected part, demonstrated the passage of the galvanic fluid. The phenomena are more marked at the place where the positive unites with the negative fluid. This operation, repeated four times in the same way, succeeded in easing the pain, and restoring complete energy to the joint."

### Rheumatism in the Arm.

"R. H., aged 55 years, had been for many years subject to rheumatic affections. In 1819 he was seized with severe pains throughout the muscular system, and swellings of the joints, which were mitigated by the use of baths, leeches, and poultices. The next year, the pain in the whole course of the deltoid muscle and the forearm became so severe, that the patient was unable to move the joint.

The pain subsequently became less intense, but the incapacity of moving the arm, together with some degree of swelling continued, and resisted the employment of baths, blisters, frictions, and simple acupuncturation, which last remedy was tried five times. When we saw the patient, the muscles were much diminished in size, but the sensibility of the part appeared to be increased; for when the skin was pinched, the patient suffered acute pain, without, however, being able to move the arm. Two needles were inserted at the origin and terminations of the brachial plexus, and the galvanic communication established. The action of the galvanic pile consisted of four elements. The areola was formed, the needles were in an instant oxidated; a small black point was observed in the centre of the areola; some small drops of water escaped. The conducting liquid was water, acidulated with a sixteenth part of nitric acid. When the communication was established, the patient felt a pricking sensation: there was not much contraction, but there was a sense of tension in all the nervous ramifications. On continuing the current, the patient complained of insupportable pain, which he compared to what is felt when fire is applied to a part. We continued the operation for the space of 25 minutes. Three days after, the patient was sensible of returning power in the arm, and by repeating the operation, he was in 25 days completely cured.

"It is a remarkable circumstance in this case," say Dr. B. and M. M., "that during the short time the patient was submitted to the action of the galvanic fluid, the cellular tissue was observed to be augmented in volume, and the muscles which covered it to become developed. This completely overthrows one of the opinions of Bichat, who has said in his general anatomy, that alterations of the nutritive system are entirely independent of the nervous system. Indeed it seems highly probable from this and other similar cases, that we shall in many instances be able to arrest the progress of atrophy, by the action of the galvanic fluid on the muscular and nervous systems."

#### *Tic Douloureux.*

"A patient, aged 34, had suffered, for the last six months, a severe pain in the branches which the frontal nerve distributes to the scalp, and in the direction of the trunk towards the bottom of the orbit. The pain varied in intensity at different times, but never entirely intermitted, and had hitherto baffled all the treatment which had been employed, such as local bleeding, frictions, and opiates. The circulating, digestive, and respiratory systems, in this patient, were in their natural state. When we first saw him, the violence of the pain had extended to the facial and sub-orbital nerves, and seemed to produce the same effect in all their ramifications as in those of the frontal.

"A needle was introduced in the direction of the cartilaginous pulley of the great oblique muscle, within which passes the internal branch of the frontal, and another was placed on the middle of the corrugator supercilii. The communication with the galvanic pile was established, when the patient felt severe pain in the bottom of the orbit, and experienced various optical illusions, such as the flashing of

light before the eyes. The *orbicularis palpebrarum*, *corrugator superciliis*, and *frontalis*, were contracted every time we endeavoured to establish the communication with the rectangles, which were only separated from each other by four elements. We attempted to increase the interval by two additional pairs, but the contraction and irritability became so violent, that we were obliged to desist. The patient was only galvanized for the space of twenty minutes, and did not experience much relief on the following day. Three days after, the first needle was placed in the direction of the *levator palpebrae superioris*, where the branch of the *orbito-frontal nerve* commences, and the second was carried towards all the parts where the nerve seems to terminate: the communication with the pile was established as before. The pain abated after this second operation, and after ten operations, the patient was completely cured."

### *St. Vitus's Dance.*

"A girl, after difficult dentition, was affected with convulsions of the muscles of the right cheek, which soon extended to the shoulder of the same side. The disorder had resisted all the treatment which had been employed, and at the age of seven years the symptoms had become more violent. When she was brought to *La Pitié*, she was in a debilitated state; the muscles on the right side were much wasted; the alternate contraction and relaxation of the muscles in the face produced constant convulsions and distortions. Galvanism was first applied to this patient by simple communication, without the introduction of needles, but she derived no benefit from it: a needle was then introduced near the first and second cervical vertebrae, and another was placed near the division of the brachial plexus. Three elements developed enough of the galvanic fluid to produce decided contractions and a painful sensation. The girl felt so much relieved by the operation, that the next day she asked to be galvanised again; but as we happened to touch, by mistake, with the thread which served as a conductor to the negative fluid, an element at a great distance from the first element, she felt so great a shock, and such severe pain, that the needles were torn out from their situation, and we had considerable difficulty in persuading her to place herself again in the galvanic circle. The operation was prolonged for half an hour, and six sittings sufficed to cure, completely, a disorder which had for years resisted the most powerful remedies that could be employed.

"Messrs. *Bailly* and *Meyranx* state, that galvanism, combined with acupuncturation, had been employed with the most decided success in a great number of cases, the details of which they intend shortly to lay before the public. The pain produced by the operation is inconsiderable, and the galvanic fluid possesses the singular property of never inflaming the part which it penetrates. What then, they exclaim, is the nature of this fluid which burns and melts metals, which puts charcoal in a state of incandescence, and which traverses the living tissues of the body, in which it increases sensibility and contractility in so marked a manner, without leaving a trace of disturbance behind it? The phenomena are altogether inexplicable."—*The Lancet.*

The union of acupuncturation and galvanism, or the mode of applying the galvanic fluid by means of needles penetrating the skin, is more likely to prove beneficial in rheumatic or paralytic affections of the limbs, than the common mode of applying it to the skin. One important advantage of the mode of application, is the certainty with which the fluid may be passed through a deep-seated affection. By the usual method, there is no doubt that the principal part of the fluid passes from the positive to the negative pole by the skin, which is a good conductor. When the sharp point of needles are passed into the cellular substance of opposite sides of a joint, the fluid will doubtless pass in a direct line from one point to the other. The experiments with galvanism, published by Dr. Wilson Philip, are most ridiculous. This experimentalist supposed the nerves to be such excellent conductors of the galvanic fluid, that he thought the fluid, when applied to the skin over a nerve of the neck (a branch of the 8th pair), would be conducted by its branches to the stomach; and, after being thus diffused over the stomach by the small ramifications, would collect and return to the end of the negative pole placed over the stomach!!! The fact is, the galvanic fluid travels by muscles in preference to nerves. The result of the scientific experiments answered the Doctor's object, for it seems he drew from them a sufficient lot of inferences, and established a sufficient number of facts relative to the vital functions, to lay a foundation for a new system of medicine, and to enable him to compose a *popular* Treatise on *Indigestion* and its CONSEQUENCES, which, by dint of advertisements, may turn out as good a speculation as Animal Magnetism, but we suspect not quite so productive as Solomon's Balm of Gilead, or Brodum's Botanical Syrup. We caution our readers against the "consequences" of doses of nitre, to subdue inflammation of the internal membrane of the stomach, and of leeches to remove nervous congestion of the same membrane, which exist only in the brains of a certain fee-hunting tribe.

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### THICKENING OF THE TOP OF THE WIND-PIPE.

Thickening of the part at the top of the wind-pipe, termed the larynx, with chronic inflammation of the internal membrane of the wind-pipe, is a very common disease in this country, especially among elderly men who have freely indulged in the cheering glass, and in singing, spouting, or preaching. Being attended with wheezing, short cough, paroxysms of difficulty of breathing, expectoration, &c. it is often mistaken for asthma, constitutional cough and consumption, by inexperienced practitioners. The disease may be easily ascertained by external examination, the enlargement of the larynx being evident to the touch. It is also painful when compressed or moved. The irritative inflammation extends to the fauces, and there is generally an acute pain on swallowing; indeed, the inflammation sometimes extends two or three inches down the gullet, when the patient is very much troubled by an accumulation of phlegm in the pharynx, and sometimes such a quantity gravitates into the stomach, as to interrupt digestion and produce nausea. A

very interesting case of this disease lately occurred at St. Bartholomew's hospital, where, we are happy to find, it was determined to be a *surgical* case. The patient, a female, (Sarah Parfett) was fifty-five years of age. She was admitted on the 27th of July, when she complained of considerable pain and soreness of the throat: the larynx was very hard and much enlarged; the voice much affected, and breathing laborious, with slight short cough. Several leeches were at different times applied, from which she always derived much benefit. The tartar emetic ointment was then employed without affording much relief. Her general health had not given way to the disease, her pulse being regular, and appetite good. On the 24th of September, Mr. Laurance ordered a perpetual blister, which proved of no service; the difficulty of breathing rapidly increasing to a degree as to threaten suffocation. The house surgeons, Messrs. Joseph and Clarke, sent for Mr. Laurance, supposing that an opening into the wind-pipe was necessary to preserve life. Mr. Laurance, however, thought otherwise, and ordered three grains of the antimonial febrifuge powder, with two grains of prepared calomel to be given every four hours. During the night she had several severe paroxysms of difficulty of breathing. Being evidently better on the following day, Mr. Laurance ordered it to be continued. An emetic was also administered, which removed the oppression of the chest, of which she had greatly complained. The next day she was considerably better, the state of respiration admitting of her lying down, which she had not been able to do for some time. Mr. Laurance now prescribed two grains of calomel, with one-third of a grain of opium to be given every four hours. After continuing this medicine two days, she was salivated. *From this time the disease gradually decreased, the inflammation of the fauces, and irritation of the larynx, and upper portion of the wind-pipe subsiding; and the voice returning.* She complained only of weakness. Mr. Laurance, in his clinical lecture on this case, stated that he had seen a similar case in consultation with Dr. Farre and Mr. Tyrrel, on which his opinion was requested as to the propriety of making an opening into the wind-pipe. Dr. F. and Mr. T. gave their opinion that he was too much reduced to be saved by the operation. They agreed on the recommendation of Mr. Laurance to administer mercury; the patient was salivated, and in two days the diseased action subsided, and the voice returned. Dr. Farre considered the effects of mercury decisive of the disease being symptomatic of a disordered or diseased liver!! The treatment proved, as in the foregoing case, successful. Mr. L. emphatically observed, that the result of the practice in that case, induced him to order it in the present one. He concluded by observing, that it appeared to him that we have formed too limited a view of the use of mercury, and that he considered it a medicine of too great power and value to omit mentioning *every fresh instance* of its efficacy. If medical men have taken too limited a view of the use of mercury, they have certainly not too much limited its use in diseases; for it is so freely prescribed both in acute and chronic disease, that a prescription, without some preparation of mercury, out of the many

thousands that are written daily in London, is a very rare thing. Calomel, or blue pill, observes a Scotch lady, is to medicine what common salt is to food; there is no doing without it.

About ten years since, we met with a case of the thickening of the larynx, in an elderly gentleman residing in Henrietta-street, Covent-Garden, attended with distressing cough, inflammation of the fauces, considerable expectoration and paroxysms of difficulty of breathing, during the night, often to a degree as to threaten suffocation. We ordered ten leeches to be applied to the skin of the projection termed *pomum Adami*, and afterward a blister, and prescribed the following medicines:—

Take of blue pill, half a drachm;

Ipecacuan powder, ten grains;

Gum ammoniac, two scruples;

Extract of hedge hyssop, half a drachm;

Mix, and with simple syrup, form a mass, and divide into thirty pills, three to be taken three times a day, with a dessert spoonful of the simple oxymel, in a little sparemint water.

From these medicines the patient derived considerable benefit. After continuing them a fortnight, symptoms indicative of approaching salivation appeared, when the quantity of blue pill was diminished. He then rapidly recovered; the enlargement of the larynx, and the inflammation of the fauces subsided, and with them the cough, pain in swallowing, &c. disappeared. He afterward enjoyed health for five years. During a residence a few miles from London, he experienced a return of the thickening, with all the irritative attendants. He applied to a medical gentleman in his neighbourhood, who pronounced his complaint: "pulmonary consumption." Prussic acid in the almond emulsion, the oxymel of squills, iceland moss, and the common routine practice in pulmonary consumption, had a fair trial, but failing to make any good impression on the disease, and a very bad one on his general health, the assistance of a high-bred Cambridge physician, with whom the apothecary was connected, was requested. The Doctor, looking most wisely, examined the pulse with his gold watch, splendid chain and seals, and after making a few enquiries, coincided with the apothecary. The patient's strength continuing to decline, and his distress from difficulty of breathing, cough, &c. increasing, he requested our advice. We found him in a most emaciated and debilitated state. The larynx was much enlarged, and the fauces inflamed and ulcerated. The time had evidently passed when an alterative medicine would have cured him. The case being hopeless, his countenance, wandering state of his mind, small quick pulse, coldness of extremities, &c. indicating approaching dissolution, we merely ordered a medicine to diminish his sufferings. The following day he discharged his debt to nature. Now had the medicines we prescribed for him when he was afflicted in Henrietta-street, been given in the early stage of the attack, we are satisfied he would have been living at this time. So much for the physical treatment of a surgical case by a high-bred Cambridge physician.

## RHEUMATIC GOUT.

The *Bulletin de l'Anthenée* contains a case of rheumatic gout communicated by Monsieur Andrieux, which was cured by acupuncture, the operation of which we have noticed in a late Number. The patient (a man aged 49 years) had suffered for ten years from attacks of rheumatic gout in the knees, elbows, wrists, and the joints of the fingers, which had become enlarged and stiff. In December last the right foot was affected with an acutely painful swelling and redness of the skin. A needle was introduced at the origin of the small toe, and brought out at the *malleolus externus*. No sooner was the operation completed, than the patient experienced great relief. He could move his foot, and suffer it to be handled, without suffering pain. In order to prevent a recurrence, Monsieur Andrieux introduced a second needle, below the *malleolus internus*. After remaining ten minutes, the needles were withdrawn, when they were very rusty. The patient was immediately able to walk with ease, whereas, at the time the remedy was applied, he could not bear the pressure or contact of the blankets. M. A. thinks the needles prove beneficial in establishing the electrical equilibrium between the nerves, &c. of the other parts, an idea which we have given in an early number. The addition of galvanism to acupuncture, as recommended by Dr. Baillie and M. A., in our present Number (page 400), is, in cases of chronic rheumatism, and chronic gouty affections of joints, an important one.

## TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD.

The late Dr. Highton, who for many years gave Lectures on Midwifery in Southwark, obtained so much reputation by numerous judicious experiments on brutes, that he was considered the first physiologist of his time; we say judicious, because he never subjected a brute to a painful experiment, without having an important object in view. Dr. Blundell, who succeeded him, has endeavoured, as the old saying is, "to tread in his master's steps;" but whether the numerous experiments he has made on living brutes (some of which must have been very painful, if not to his feelings, to those of the poor victims), were judicious, or the results likely to benefit the human race, we shall for the present decline to give a decided opinion. We have not noticed them, because we would not distress the feelings of our *non-medical* readers; but, as it is a duty we owe our *medical* readers to detail them, and point out their probable utility to mankind, we intend to go over them with attention for that purpose; and we must beg our *non-medical* subscribers to take a *philosophical* view of them. To Dr. Blundell much credit is due for the rational experiments he has made in transfusing blood into the veins of several brutes, after reducing them, to use a vulgar expression, to "death's door," by abstraction of blood. The practice of introducing blood by a vein into the sanguiferous system, is very ancient. It partly originated in the idea which long prevailed among the ancients, that many, if not all, the diseases incident to the human frame, are produced by some impure state of the blood; the object

of the practice was, therefore, to get rid of the *impure* blood, and to introduce the pure blood of a young animal; the preference was always given to that of a calf, or lamb. The practice rarely succeeding, has repeatedly fallen into disrepute; but the humoral pathology continuing to prevail, it has been frequently revived. That the practice should succeed in such cases as pulmonary or mesenteric consumption, or other cases of organic disease, does not militate against it in cases of exhaustion from loss of blood; for no practitioner acquainted with the structural mischief that takes place in such diseases, could expect the parts to be repaired, and the structure rendered healthy, by any change in the blood. Besides, to our minds the results of the experiments made by Dr. Blundell satisfactorily prove, that the blood of one species of animal will disorder the system of another. In cases of exhaustion from the loss of blood from wounds, or from the uterus after labour, by the timely injection of human blood into the sanguiferous system, many lives may unquestionably be saved; and we do conceive, that the thanks of the profession and of the public are due to Dr. Blundell, for the interesting communications he has made on this most important subject. Where human life is concerned, too great attention cannot be paid to minutiae. The young practitioner, raw from his school, thinks that he is acquainted with the means of subduing every disease; indeed, the only thing that surprises, is, that in the improved state of medicine, man should die before he has run his natural course. He boldly attacks disease on the favourite system of his teacher, and he despises *old* practitioners, because they are of the *old school*. He goes on for years before he discovers that a knowledge of diseases is to be acquired only by experience and observation, and he then sees the truth of the old saying, "Young men think old men fools, but old men know them to be so." Long experience and observation satisfy him, that the remark of the great Franklin on wealth, "many a pickle makes a mickle," applies equally to medicine, i. e. the stock of knowledge which is gained by long experience, consists of minutiae. We would, in cases of exhaustion from loss of blood, strictly adhere to minutiae. If the patient were a female, we would not only inject the blood of a female, but of one about the same age, and whose mode of living was somewhat similar; we would also inject only venous blood into a vein. Three cases of exhaustion from loss of blood, endangering life, have lately occurred in London, in which, it is said, the transfusion of blood fully succeeded. The first, and most important one, is from the pen of Mr. Waller, a scientific surgeon of Aldersgate-street. The patient was about 25 years of age. The labour, which was natural, even the expulsion of the placenta being effected by nature, was succeeded by so profuse a loss of blood from the uterus, that she was soon reduced to an alarming state of exhaustion; the pulse, breathing, and power of swallowing having nearly ceased, and the extremities become cold. From this state the patient was in a little time roused, by exhibiting brandy with sal volatile; but their effects were so temporary, that in five or six hours there was every appearance of approaching dissolution. Mr. Waller, as a dernier resource, determined to try the effect of

transfusing fresh blood into the system of blood-vessels; and Dr. Blundell being of opinion that it was the only means by which her life could be saved, the operation was performed in the following manner :

" One of the veins at the bend of the arm having been laid bare, an incision was made into it sufficiently large to admit the pipe of a syringe capable of holding two ounces\*. The syringe was then filled with blood, drawn at the moment from the *husband* of the patient; and the pipe being immediately introduced into the vein, the fluid was slowly injected. This part of the operation was repeated a second time, so that about four fluid ounces of blood were thus introduced.

" From the injection of the first syringeful no particular effect was observed; but towards the end of the second there was an approach to syncope, with sighing, and efforts to vomit. These symptoms, however, ceased spontaneously in the course of a few minutes. After this, no further medical aid seems to have been necessary; the powers of life gradually returning, and without the occurrence of a single unpleasant symptom, as we are told, until health was established."

The second case occurred in the practice of Mr. Doubleday, a respectable surgeon of Great Surry Street. The patient having been reduced to " death's door," by flooding during and after labour, Mr. D. hastened to Dr. Blundell, and " fortunately found him *at home*." The Doctor returned with his syringe, and when he arrived at the patient's bed-side, he declared it to be a fair case for the operation; and the husband, on being informed that it was the only means of saving her life, consented to supply the blood from his own system. Dr. Blundell was now again "*at home*." He commenced the operation by exposing the medium vein, but the patient taking alarm at the first cut, resisted it with such force as to astonish the Doctor. (This was indeed strong evidence of danger from debility!!) The patient's strength prevailing, the Doctor wisely determined to abandon the operation, not, however, with the expectation that she would ultimately recover. About *six hours after the discharge had ceased*, Mr. D. was requested to hurry to her, Mr. Franks, who had been left in attendance, supposing she was sinking so very rapidly that he would not find her alive. Mr. Doubleday doubled his usual pace, and on his arrival found her "*all but gone*." At this time, he says, about a bottle of brandy, 160 drops of laudanum, and a considerable quantity of ammonia, had been given, besides the yolks of three eggs beaten up in brandy, and some beef tea and gruel !! Really after the exertions the patient was capable of making when Doctor Blundell was operating, we cannot help thinking that the "*all-but-gone state*" was the effect of the laudanum. One hundred and twenty drops, with a bottle of brandy, yolks of three eggs beat

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\* " On opening the vein a little blood flowed from it, which was arrested by passing a blunt needle under the vessel, a little below the orifice; a measure of precaution recommended to future operators as a preliminary step."

up in brandy, beef tea, gruel, &c. &c. were enough after a labour to put her into a state resembling "all but gone." As brandy would not save her, the idea of witnessing the death of this poor woman so powerfully operated on the acutely sensible feeling of Surgeon Doubleday, that he lost no time in finishing the operation Dr. Blundell had commenced. Blood was taken from a vein of the afflicted husband, *secundum artem*, and introduced by a vein into the sanguiferous system of the patient, *secundum artem Blundelli*. "As the syringe was emptied the pulse rose, and she almost immediately recovered, and exclaimed, "I am as strong as a bull"!!! (Strong symptom of the effect of brandy, &c.) Four syringesful were injected. The recovery of the patient was of course attributed to the transfusion of blood.

The third case occurred in Fleet-street. The surgeon, conceiving the patient's life to be in danger from loss of blood after delivery, requested the attendance of his friend Dr. Uwins. The Doctor, after feeling the pulse, &c., gave his opinion that nothing would save her but transfusion of blood. The operation was accordingly agreed on, and the husband, we suspect, not being at hand, the humane Doctor agreed to supply the blood. No objection being made to his blood, (Dr. Blundell having employed that of a calf) a supply was taken from the magnanimous Doctor's arm, who, on the occasion, looked most knowingly. The surgeon pronouncing it to be "*capital blood*," injected it *secundum artem Blundelli*. The patient, we are told, is in a state of convalescence, but the effects of the Doctor's blood on her constitution, and that of the infant, will not appear for some time. The part on which the operation was performed becoming sore, the surgeon thought it right to *abstract* blood from it by leeches to prevent inflammation !! That the lives of all these patients were really saved by the operation, we confess we have our doubts. We have seen females so exhausted by tedious labour, and by flooding, as to be incapable of moving or speaking; indeed, we have seen them in an apparently lifeless state, but we never knew one who did not rally and do well. But transfusion of blood was not then *in fashion*. The medical gentlemen who declared transfusion to be necessary to save the lives of the patients, whose cases we have noticed above, should, we think, have stated what *topical* means they had employed to check the flooding, and particularly whether they had adopted the practice recommended by the late eminent physician and surgeon, Dr. Rigby, of Norwich. The topical practice to which he always resorted in cases of danger from loss of blood from the uterus after delivery, not only checked the hemorrhage by bringing the uterus into action, but proved also a stimulus to the whole system,—we may say, from experience, a greater stimulus than brandy, even to the extent of a bottle, 120 drops of laudanum, a considerable quantity of ammonia, yolks of three eggs, beef tea, &c &c &c. Had Mr. Rigby's practice been adopted in the melancholy case of the late Princess Charlotte of Wales, the result, in our opinion, would have been very different. In that case, the powers of the uterus were so much reduced by a tedious labour, and by frequent bleeding previously to labour,

that it had not the power of contracting, the consequence of which was, the blood that escaped from the part to which the placenta was attached, being retained in the womb, neither the nurse nor the accoucheur suspected hemorrhage. On dissection, however, it appeared that the uterus had only partially contracted, and contained seven or eight pounds of blood.

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### SMALL POX.

Mr. Laurance, assistant surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, one of the few hospital surgeons of this metropolis who attends to the new discoveries in the healing art, and one of the very few who is capable of forming an opinion of those in the surgical department, has lately given the solution of nitrate of silver a trial in a case of small pox, to prevent suppuration, according to the suggestion of M. Velpeau, noticed in a late Number of this work. It had the effect of shortening the duration of the eruptions, but as the pustules were small (the patient having had cow-pox) very little can be deduced from its effects in diminishing the marks.

A young lady of the city, who had been vaccinated many years since, has lately had an unusual abundant crop of small pox, in some places confluent. The eye-lids and even the tunica conjunctiva of both eyes were so much affected, that it is feared she will be nearly if not totally blind. It was preceded by a high degree of fever. Her medical attendant not suspecting small pox, treated it as common inflammatory fever; and it is probable that the warm diluent liquors and keeping her warm in bed, to promote the operation of sudorific medicines, occasioned the extra crop of pustules.

Mr. Fosbrooke, of Cheltenham, an active member of the profession, has lately employed cold affusion in two cases of small pox with the most decided advantage. If exposure to a currency of cold air be proper during the progress of the eruption, there can certainly be no objection to sponging the body with cold water. Mr. Fosbrooke considers the "danger and severity of small pox to be in the ratio of the number of pustules, and injury done by the eruptions to the true skin (cutis) according to their depth. These effects," says he, "will be at the height when the pustules have reached their fullest magnitude and ripeness." It was on this idea Mr. F. adopted the practice of cold affusion with the sponge. In the first case in which he employed it, the general irritation, heat of skin, and increasing debility were so speedily alleviated, that the ablution was renewed repeatedly. After the first time, he demanded the re-application several times a-day. The second case we shall give in his own words. "The boy, after recovering from an affection of the bowels, followed by a pustule, similar to cow pox in all its stages, (probably herpetic, for there is a great general relation betwixt them,) was seized with fever, quick pulse, and an eruption of shining vesicles, small but thickly seated on the belly. Finding the heat of skin almost burning to the feel, and suspecting small pox eruption would follow, I ordered the cold affusion with vinegar and water. This was tried at the time, and frequently since, with complete relief. Small pox eruptions

have appeared in the mild distinct form. The patient is up all day, and the ablutions are continued, though he expresses dislike of the chilliness occasioned by them. As the pustules advance to maturation, however, he has called for the affusion."

What with cold ablution and with the topical application of a solution of the nitrate of silver, small pox—the danger of which has been so magnified by interested vaccinators—is likely to become the mildest of the two diseases.

### INSENSIBILITY FROM CONCUSSION OF THE BRAIN.

Mr. Oswald, surgeon to the House of Government, Isle of Man, F. A. S. &c. &c. has published a case, in which from long continued insensibility from a fall on the head, it was found necessary, in order to support life, to inject a nutritious fluid into the stomach, by means of a stomach syringe: The patient (a man aged 40) was of a full habit. "He was quite stunned by a fall on his head from a horse. No time was lost in procuring surgical assistance, and a surgeon near at hand, very properly bled him. He was afterward conveyed home, a distance of eight miles, and the insensibility continuing, the attendance of Mr. Oswald was requested. Mr. D. did not see him till the following morning. Finding a "large puffy tumour" on the back of the head, Mr. D. laid it open in order to examine the skull, but he could not discover any thing like injury done to it. Two medical gentlemen who attended before Mr. D. had disagreed respecting the further abstraction of blood, the one supposing the vessels of the head were in a state of depletion, and the other of overdistention!! Mr. D. however, ordered no less than thirty-six leeches to be applied to the scalp of the back part of the head. The discharge of blood from the punctures having been encouraged, a considerable quantity escaped. The common domestic and other glyasters, with infusion of senna, salts and tartarised antimony to the extent of a scruple, were successively administered during the course of the day, before the bowels were freely emptied. This practice was productive of some relief. The insensibility continuing, Mr. D. ordered a blister to be applied to the nape of the neck, and an *opiate* clyster to be administered—(a man of common sense would doubt the propriety of administering an opiate in case of total insensibility; perhaps Mr. D. considers opium to be a stimulus!) Having no power of swallowing, no medicine was administered by the mouth. The following days, the leeches (36) were re-applied, and the purgative clysters repeated, which seemed to prove beneficial. In the evening, he ordered a cold lotion to be applied to the head, and a nutritive clyster to be administered. No nourishment having been conveyed into the stomach for three days, and the patient not having the power of swallowing, Mr. D. directed his attention to the support of the system, by introducing nutriment by means of Read's stomach syringe. This very successful instrument not being at hand, Mr. D. employed one he had constructed for the purpose of pumping water from the stomach in cases of drowning, having observed, "that no patient is taken completely insensible out of the water, in which the stomach is not loaded with water; and that this water causes frequent retchings, and often

*severe vomiting during resuscitation, and is always discharged either upwards or downwards, before recovery is complete."* The mechanical and chilling effects of such a collection of cold water, must, of course, considerably retard, if not prevent resuscitation by the common means.

By means of his simple syringe he conveyed a pint of liquid (skim milk and common tea in equal parts) into the stomach of the patient, whose insensibility continued. The introduction of the pipe roused him, and he attempted to prevent it. The pulse increased from 89 to 125. On the following day the patient was very considerably better, having in some degree recovered the powers of speech, hearing, and swallowing. Purgative medicines, as jalap and calomel, were administered by the mouth. He complained of head-ache, and the temperature of the head was increased. Mr. D. suspecting the commencement of the inflammatory stage of concussion of the brain, so well distinguished from the first and second stages by Mr. Abernethy, he lost no time in checking it, by taking 36 ounces of blood from the arm. The patient on attempting to get up, fainted. The head-ache was greatly relieved. From this period he continued to improve, with the occasional use of an aperient. He had remained sixty-five hours in a state of insensibility, and Mr. D. observes, "he would probably never have recovered, had not injections into the stomach been employed so as to produce re-action in that organ, and consequently in the whole system." Had the treatment of the patient been consigned to the surgeon who objected to a further abstraction of blood, the result, we suspect, would have been very different. The case was, no doubt, concussion of brain in a peculiar nervous temperament.

## PHARMACY.

### THE GARDEN LETTUCE.

The Medical Review of Paris contains an article on the inspissated milky juice of the garden lettuce, lately introduced into medicine as a remedy for irritation and chronic inflammation of the membrane lining the windpipe, or consumptive or catarrhal cough, by the celebrated Professor Duncan, of Edinburgh, under the name of Lactucarium, by Dr. Roman. After making some objections to the method of obtaining this article by M. Francois, Dr. R. gives the following directions for preparing it.

Take thirty pounds of lettuce in flower, and then deprive the stems of all their flowers and tops. After cutting them in pieces, bruise them in a marble mortar, and then macerate in six quarts of water: strain off the liquor, and set it aside to settle; after which boil for some minutes, to separate the greenish scum formed during ebullition. The liquor is then to be filtered, and evaporated to a proper consistence. From the above quantity of lettuce were obtained six ounces of a reddish brown extract, of a resinous appearance, attracting humidity from the atmosphere, and of a taste similar to opium.

The root of the garden lettuce abounds with the milky juice, and when inspissated, or the decoction carefully evaporated, is equal to the lactucarium prepared as directed by Dr. Duncan.

The lettuce lozenge, made according to the instructions of Dr. Duncan, is a most valuable remedy for common and consumptive cough, and for allaying irritation at the top of the windpipe, or in the membrane lining of the bronchia. They not only quiet cough, but promote expectoration and relieve the lungs, by keeping up a determination to the surface of the body.

**N<sup>o.</sup> 109, To Jan. 1st, 1825.**  
PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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THE MONTHLY  
**Gazette of Health,**  
OR  
**Medical, Dietetic,**  
**PHILOSOPHICAL AND ANTI-EMPIRICAL**  
**JOURNAL.**

EDITED BY

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"The titles of these ingenious gentlemen (regular and irregular pretenders) are now undergoing such rigid examination, as to give every reason for hope that their claims to exclusive rights and privileges will be effectually disproved, and that the unwary and ignorant, of whom great numbers annually fall sacrifices to their ignorance and cupidity, will at length be rescued from their hands."  
—*Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal.*

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**LONDON :**

**PUBLISHED BY SHERWOOD AND CO. PATERNOSTER ROW; AND  
SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

**Clay and Co. Printers, 9, Devonshire-street, Bishopsgate.**

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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The Editors advise "Michael" to continue the eye ointment, and to wash the eyes twice or thrice a day with the following lotion:—

Take of Sulphate of Zinc, 6 grains;  
—of Copper, 1 grain;  
Distilled water, 8 ounces.

He may also take three table-spoonsful of the following mixture, twice a day:—

Take of Decoction of Bark, 8 ounces;  
Subcarbonate of Soda, 3 drachms.—Mix.

Plummer's pill may be continued for the course of ten days.

The Editors recommend "Lieut. S. J." to remove the ends of the thin part of the hair twice a week, by means of scissars; to wash the part every night with a strong solution of salt; and rub over it, the following morning, a mixture of olive oil (one ounce) and oil of rosemary (1 drachm). He may employ any of the advertised dyes for the hair, to render it dark.

The Editors return their thanks to "Dr. C. R." for his hints. They will make the necessary inquiries relative to the medicine.

The case of "R. S. W." of Bristol, is evidently spasmodic stricture of the urethra, probably attended with disease of the prostate gland. The Editors advise him to take two tea-spoonsful of the tincture of buchu leaves, in three table-spoonsful of the infusion of the leaves, three times a day; four grains of the blue pill, every other night, for a fortnight; and to obviate costiveness by small doses of castor oil.

"M. A." and "W. S." have not been correctly informed respecting the Appendix and Supplement. The Editors do not allow any part of the work to remain out of print for a longer time than a week.

"R. S." may add a drachm of the aromatic pill to the dinner pill, and divide the mass into middle-sized pills; and take two or three twice a day.

"S. A. L." is advised to rub the hair with a little oil of almonds every night. The articles advertised for dyeing hair, will have the effect of rendering it more dry. Curling the hair by means of heated irons, is decidedly bad; but by paper, is not injurious.

To the queries of "D. A." the Editors can return no other reply than cautious and gradual eradication. The advertised articles may be safely applied to the skin, but not to the delicate membrane lining the nostrils.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS *continued.*

"An old Subscriber, of Litchfield," and "An old Subscriber, of Abingdon," will find the information they solicit in their next Number.

"The Rev. G. H." may take two tea-spoonsful of the alkaline tincture of fumitory, and one of the compound tincture of rhatany, in a wine-glass of infusion of buchu leaves, three times a day. He may also take, once a week, the purgative pills he has noticed in his Letter. These medicines, by promoting digestion, and increasing the secretion of urine, will prevent the disease he dreads (dropsy), and remove the edematous swelling of his legs. The Editors recommend him to take exercise on horseback, in preference to walking.

With the requests of "Medico-Chirurgicus, Dr. Jones, and Dr. L." of Philadelphia, the Editors will comply in an early Number.

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*Communications and New Publications addressed to the Editors, No. 8, Bolton Row, Piccadilly, will meet with early attention, and will be thankfully received.*

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## IMPROVED SYRINGE

*For Extracting Poison from the Human Stomach, and administering Enemas.*

---

In the Press, and will be Published in a few days.

"AN Undisguished Statement of Facts," which will indisputably refute Mr. Jukes's claim to the Invention of the "Improved Poison Syringe," assumed by him, and place "the saddle upon the right horse:" with Observations illustrative of the motives of Mr. Jukes for such assumption. Together with a Review of, and answer to two Pamphlets, lately Published by Mr. Read and Mr. Maw on the Subject, which imperatively call for notice.

By JOHN GILL,

Surgical Instrument Maker, No. 45, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street; the person who, in July 1822, (as appears in the Gazette of Health for October in that year, page 290,) made the first improved Stomach Syringe, and had sold more than thirty of them before the appearance of Mr. Read with his Syringe at St. Thomas's.

## *Galvanism, Electricity, the Portable Warm Air, Aromatic Vapour, Sulphur, and Air-pump Vapour Baths.*

### **INDIGESTION, TORPID AND OBSTRUCTED LIVER, ASTHMA, &c.**

**M**R. LA BEAUME, Medical Surgeon Electrician, consulting Surgeon to the London Electrical Dispensary, F.L.S. &c., announces to the Public, that he has, for the last seven years, made an extensive use of Galvanism, in Disorders of the Stomach, Liver and Bowels, Asthma, Cutaneous, Glandular, and Scrofulous Complaints; Affections of the Head, Deafness, Blindness, Lameness, &c., with the most beneficial results. Even in very aggravated cases, in which repeated Courses of Mercury, Chlorine, and Sulphur, and other Baths, had entirely failed, Galvanism has fully succeeded. That the judicious Application of this Philosophical Agent, is a safe, mild, and effectual substitute for Mercury, in many Chronic Disorders, is now an established fact of great importance to society; and numerous persons of the first respectability (who had for years suffered from those diseases, and have obtained perfect recovery) can be referred to, who will cheerfully bear testimony to the success of this remedy, which is administered by Mr. La Beaume, without producing any painful feeling whatever. As some medical men are unacquainted with the sanative powers of Galvanism on the vital organs, and Mr. La Beaume's peculiar treatment, and therefore incompetent to give an opinion on the subject; and as others object to remedies not used in common practice, a direct application should be made to him for information, or advice, as he from his long experience of the properties of his own curative means, must be most capable of judging of their applicability and efficacy in any case of disease. Mr. L. begs also to state, that the Portable Warm Air, Aromatic Vapour, Sulphur, and Air-pump Vapour-Baths, have been found singularly efficacious in Gout, Rheumatism, and Palsy; Diseases of the Skin and Joints, Inflammation of the Lungs, Erysipelas, Epilepsy, Hysteria, Croup, Measles, &c., and are administered to Patients either at their own houses, or at his residence on giving a short notice. As these Baths are very portable, and do not occupy much space, they may be used by Invalids in their own Bed-rooms, without any of the inconveniences attending the Common Vapour and Sulphur Baths. They also possess an advantage of the greatest medical importance, from the new principle by which the temperature is regulated, producing from twenty to thirty degrees of heat, greater to the lower than the upper extremities, thereby immediately relieving and preventing a determination of blood to the head, which is frequently the consequence of using the Common Vapour and Sulphur Baths.

Applications to be made to Mr. La Beaume, at his house, No. 31, Southampton Row, Russell-square. At home from 9 to ten 10, and from 12 to 4 o'clock, or at any other time by appointment, or by letters post paid.

The following Works, viz. La Beaume on the Air-pump Vapour-bath, and Galvanism, in the Cure of Gout, Rheumatism, Palsy, &c. price six shillings; and La Beaume on the Medical Efficacy of Electricity in Nervous and Chronic Disorders, Blindness, Deafness, Lameness. &c. price ten shillings; are published and sold by Highley, Fleet-street; Letts, Cornhill; Hookham, Bond-street; and may be had of all Booksellers.

**N<sup>o</sup>. 110, To Feb. 1st, 1825.**

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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**THE MONTHLY  
Gazette of Health,  
OR  
Medical, Dietetic,  
PHILOSOPHICAL AND ANTI-EMPIRICAL  
JOURNAL.**

EDITED BY

**RICHARD REECE, M. D.**

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "DICTIONARY OF POPULAR MEDICINE," "MEDICAL GUIDE," "CHEMICAL GUIDE," CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS, &c. &c. &c.

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"The titles of these ingenious gentlemen (regular and irregular pretenders) are now undergoing such rigid examination, as to give every reason for hope that their claims to exclusive rights and privileges will be effectually disproved, and that the unwary and ignorant, of whom great numbers annually fall sacrifices to their ignorance and cupidity, will at length be rescued from their hands."  
—*Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*.

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**LONDON:**

**PUBLISHED BY SHERWOOD AND CO. PATERNOSTER ROW; AND  
SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

**Clay and Co. Printers, 8, Devonshire-street, Bishopsgate.**

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

---

The Editors advise "R. H. R." to take three tea-spoonsful of the following drops, three times a day, in a large wine-glassful of the decoction of marsh-mallow root:—

Take of Tincture of Buchu leaves, 2 ounces;  
Compound Tincture of Rhatany, 1 ounce;  
Liquor of Potass, 2 drachms.—Mix.

He may also take four grains of the blue pill every other night, for the course of a fortnight; and in case of costiveness, two or three of the aperient pills, recommended for habitual costiveness. No particular diet is necessary. If the complaint should continue, he should have recourse to a weak solution of the acetate of alum.

"Maria M." is advised to take the following pills every night, at bed-time, with three-quarters of a pint of warm white-wine whey:—

Take of Ipecacuan Powder, 2 grains;  
Opium, 1 grain;  
Blue Pill, 3 grains;  
Extract of Henbane, 4 grains.

To be well mixed, and divided into two pills.—She may rub the parts affected, every night and morning, with the following liniment:—

Take of Olive Oil, 1 onnce;  
Ointment of Belladonna, 2 drachms;  
Liquor of pure Ammonia, 3 ditto.—Mix.

She will, in the present Number, find some directions as to the management of the bowels, &c. She should have noticed the state of her *general* health, and also the exact seat of the pain, and whether the bone is tumified. The Editors suspect it is not simple rheumatism. If the liniment should not succeed in allaying her pain, she may have recourse to a blister.

The Editors advise "W. S." to take a tea-spoonful of the following drops twice a day, in a wine-glass of water:—

Take of the saturated Tincture of the Lobelia inflata, 1 ounce;  
Compound Spirit of Ammonia, 2 drachms.

He will find instructions for the management of the bowels of asthmatic subjects, in the present Number.

"R. W. F." of Worcester, is advised to give the article he has noticed in his Letter a trial.

"W. S." of Bristol, has not been correctly informed by his Bookseller, respecting the Appendix. It has not been out of print within the last month.

The Editors beg to assure "W. S. T. of the Borough School," that they have not lost sight of the Quack Society of *regular* Physicians of the United Kingdom. In their next number they will fully expose the ignorance and impudence of this association; and their dread of being demoralised.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS *continued.*

The Editors will endeavour to collect the information "Mary" solicits; and if they should succeed, they will give an article on the subject in their next Number.

The article of which "An Old Friend" requests information, is the chloride of lime. The chlorides of soda and potass have been long employed for preserving meat; and the Editors have lately employed diluted chlorine for the same purpose, the result of which they will give in an early Number; and they think they have already noticed the chloride of lime as a preserver of animal bodies. They are satisfied that no article can so far correct "meat in the last stage of decomposition," as to render it perfectly sweet, or fit for food. In meat, we find the putrefaction first takes place in the cellular substance; and, when the process is superficial, which is always, on the commencement, the case, an acid, as chlorine, the pyrolignous acid, and the nitric acid, by correcting the effluvia, and principally by removing the decomposed matter, will succeed in sweetening the meat, and in rendering it fit for food; but when the process has advanced into the fibrous structure of muscles, it is in vain to attempt to render it fit for use, or even to sweeten it. As their "old friend" reads many of the periodical philosophical publications of France, he is no doubt aware, that in *French* chemistry there is more froth than substance.

The Editors hope their worthy correspondent "W. F." will favour them with a full account of the practice of the *Urine* Doctor, Dr. R. at Deptford, and the case of the gentleman, which "suddenly terminated in death, under his care."

The Editors will comply with the request of their friend respecting the stomach syringe, in their next number. They have postponed their "comparative merits" partly on account of Mr. Gill's promised work not having appeared, and partly in consequence of expecting to receive a description of a new instrument lately invented by a gentleman in Scotland. From the experiments they have made with the gullet, or stomach syringes of Savigney, Gill, and Read, they have no hesitation in giving the most decided preference to Mr. Read's.

The Editors have not even heard of Mr. Day's remedy for Asthma. If "W. S. R." will send them a bottle, they will analyse it; and also give his case in which it proved injurious.

On account of the length of the articles on Dropsy, and the Treatment of the different species of Costiveness, the Editors have been obliged to omit the communications of Dr. Jones, on the *Lobelia Inflata*—Mr. Jackson, on the causes and treatment of Corns—Remarks on the effects of Cubebs in allaying Membranous Irritation—a case of Morbid Irritation of the Bladder, cured by the Buchu Leaves—of Tubercular Pulmonary Consumption, cured by a composition of Iron and Myrrh—Tic Douloureux, by the Prussic Acid—extraordinary case of Small Pox after Cow Pox—Dr. Graham's Treatise on Indigestion—Mr. Farr's new Work on Cancer, &c. &c.

The Letters of "W. R. of Hereford"—"S. Q. L. of Leeds"—and "L. L. of Monmouth"—the Editors will answer by post.

## CORRESPONDENTS—Continued.

The Editors have postponed the insertion of the "Epitaph on the Medical Repository," till that work is distinct, which is expected to take place in the course of the Summer. The death of this Journal will prove the truth of the old saying—"too many cooks spoil the broth." The society of physicians of the united Kingdom, gave it what is termed "a body blow." The work having been instituted to defend apothecaries, against a set of ignorant tea-hunters, who had conspired against them, the proprietors cannot be surprised at its *rapid decline*, on its being employed as a vehicle of abuse against that respectable body, and to puff off a contemptible set of men, who are inferior to them in practical knowledge, and in scientific attainments.

---

Communications and Copies of New Publications, addressed to the Editors of the Gazette of Health, No. 8, Bolton Row, are thankfully received.

---

## FARR ON CANCER.

This day is published, the 2d Edition, with important Improvements in Practice, and much new Matter, 8vo. Price 4s.

**A** TREATISE illustrative of a Method by which OCCULT CANCER may be cured, together with Practical Directions for its Treatment in the Ulcerative Stage. By WILLIAM FARR, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, late Surgeon to the Hospital on the Island of Anholt, &c. &c. Published by W. Wightman, 46, Fleet Street. Of whom may be had, by the same Author, a Treatise on the Cure of Scrofula. Second Edition. Price 4s.

N<sup>o.</sup> 112

To April 1st, 1825.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

THE MONTHLY

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—*Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*.

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS & SUBSCRIBERS.

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IN consequence of the length of the articles on Costiveness, it was the intention of the Editor to add a sheet to the present Number, in order to render it more miscellaneous; but some cases of serious diseases, one of which is in his own family, have prevented his carrying his intention into effect. He has likewise not had time to read the Letters of his Correspondents: but he hopes those whose cases require an immediate answer, will favour him with their addresses, that he may reply to their queries by Post.

---

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THE CHEMICAL GUIDE; or, Epitome of Modern Experimental Chemistry. Comprising the General Laws of Chemical Action; the Methods of preparing Chemical Re-agents, and using them in the Analysis of Natural and Artificial Products; an Account of the Nature and formation of Elastic Fluids, with a great variety of amusing and instructing Experiments; to which are added, Means of detecting the Adulteration of Medicinal and other Substances; Directions for making domestic Chemical Articles of real Utility; Tables of Affinity; a View of Animal Chemistry, as explaining the Laws and Functions of the animated Structure; and the Phenomena of Diseases on the Principles of this Science; a Glossary, explanatory of technical Terms, &c. &c. By REECE and CO. of the Chemical and Medical Hall, Piccadilly. Price 7s. 6d.

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2. TRANSLATION of the NEW LONDON PHARMACOPŒIA, with the Doses of each Article, the best Method of administering them either alone or in combination with others, and the Diseases for the Cure of which they are employed; a Table of New and Old Names; a Copious Index, &c. forming a complete Modern Dispensatory.

BY A SCOTCH PHYSICIAN,  
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By a LATE HOSPITAL SURGEON and LECTURER.

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“It is in fact the most valuable practical Work that has issued from the press for many years, and will prove a most useful Guide for Medical Practitioners in general.”—*Monthly Gazette of Health*.

“Its execution is creditable to the Author. It will be found useful to the classes in the Profession for which it is intended.”—*London Medical Repository*.

**FUMIGATING SULPHUR & VAPOUR BATHS.** Under the immediate superintendance of Mr. Green, Surgeon, No. 5, Bury Street, St. James's. For the Cure of Cutaneous Diseases, Affections of the Liver, Rheumatism, Contractions, and various Chronic Complaints. Improved upon the Plan submitted to the French Government by Dr. Gales and Dr. D'Arcet, and now in general use on the Continent, and under the sanction of the first Medical men in this Country.

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**RELIEF, with EASE and SECURITY, to the AFFLICTED with HERNIA.**

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N<sup>o</sup>. 113

To May 1st, 1825.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors advise "W. F." to take two tea-spoonsful of the following drops three times a day, in a small wine-glassful of Valerian tea:

Take of the Alkaline Liquor of Iron, half an ounce;  
Compound Tincture of Gentian, 1 ounce;  
Ditto Spirit of Ammonia, 3 drachms.—Mix.

With the view of obviating costiveness, he may take, every or every other night, one, two, or three of the following pills, according to their aperient effects on the bowels:

Take of Compound Colocynth Pill, 1 drachm;  
Castile Soap, 1 scruple.

Mix, and divide into eighteen pills.

If he can obtain the *alkaline* extract of jalap, he may substitute one drachm of it, with ten grains of ginger powder for the compound colocynth pill. He may apply cold water to his head for ten minutes every morning, by means of a napkin. He should keep his feet warm by worsted stockings and flannel socks, and to promote the secretion of the nostrils by a small pinch of the compound *Asarabacca* snuff, every forenoon. His diet should be a medium one; *i.e.* between low and generous.

The complaint of "Debilis" is too trifling for notice. By diverting his mind from it, and taking a tea-spoonful or two of Epsom salt, with six drops of the dilute sulphuric acid, in a tumbler of water, every morning, so as to obviate costiveness, it will soon cease; but even if it should continue to return once or twice a week, he should not consider it a disorder. The Editors advise him to read the article in the "Appendix to the Gazette of Health" on his complaint, and follow the advice there given.

The promised communication of "Philanthropos, M. D." has not been received.

"G. C." of Liverpool, should have been aware that the name of the author of the book he has quoted is fictitious, and the article a quack medicine, to which any other name is as applicable as the one the author has given it. There is no work on indigestion by any person of the name he has introduced. The author is no doubt one of the *Fudge* family.

To an "Old Subscriber" the Editors return their sincere thanks for his communication. Many instruments have been invented for the purpose of diminishing the sensibility of a limb during amputation, but they have been abandoned even by those surgeons who introduced them, in consequence of some patients having complained of the pain being increased by the application.

"Chiron's" Letter on Snuff-taking and Spontaneous Combustion, is intended for the next Number.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

With the request of a “Practitioner,” the Editors will comply on the cover of their next Number, although some may think it the “puff direct.”

The interesting case of disordered state of the chylopoietic organs, which yielded to galvanism, under the care of M. La Beaume, Esq. communicated by Peter Cator, Esq. of the Inner Temple, was not received in time to appear in the proper department of the present number.

To the query of a “Medical Tyro,” respecting the best practical treatise on fever, or “free from wild theories and *random practice*,” the editors have no hesitation in replying,—“Observations on Fever, by Mr. R. Wade, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Apothecary to the Westminster General Dispensary.” This work the editors intend to notice in their next number.

The editors have been obliged to omit, for the want of room, “L. S.’s” comments on the case of a young lady said to be cured by Dr. Yates, of Brighton, for which the public papers say, the doctor received a carriage, and a pair of horses, and an extra fee of one thousand guineas. They will endeavour to obtain answers to his queries; and, if they should succeed, they will give the “whole” in their next number.

The article on “Flannel” has been written nearly two months, by the request of an old subscriber. It has not been inserted for want of room—it shall appear in the next number.

To Chiro-medicus the Editors return their thanks, for his hints respecting the herd of disappointed and needy “physicians of the United Kingdom;” they have long had a “rod in pickle” for them, but the idea of their wretched contemptibility or insignificance has been the cause of it not having been applied. In the next, they will condescend to castigate these impudent impostors.

The case of Mrs. O. S. of Bristol, is dropsy. They advise her to read with attention the article on dropsy, in the present number. She may take two or three spoonsful of the following drops three times a day, in a wine-glass of the infusion of the buchu leaves.

Take of Aromatic tincture of quinine, two ounces

Tincture of foxglove, three drachms

Alkaline tincture of iron, half an ounce

Liquor of potass, three drachms—Mix.

The editors’ reply to “W. S.” respecting the tincture of the “lobelia inflata,” is,—they have met with a few cases of asthma, in which it has certainly proved very beneficial. In every case it was exhibited in larger doses than those recommended by the American physicians. In one case, it was extended to the quantity of two tea-spoonsful. A tea-spoonful is a full dose to commence with.

The letters of “L. F. R.” of Bath, “S—N.” of Manchester, “W. T. L.” of Liverpool, “R. W.” and “S—y” of Worcester, the Editors will answer by Post.

If “Miss W.” had read the pages of the Gazette of Health, she would have known that the idea entertained by her that the Editors publish all the cases of their patients in it, is erroneous. They occasionally notice a case in which any particular treatment succeeded; but they never give the names or residence of a patient.

The case of “W. R. S.” is a very fair one for the trial of the Tincture of Iodine.

☞ *Communications and New Publications addressed to the Editors of the Gazette of Health, 170, Piccadilly, will be thankfully received.*

**M**R. LA BEAUME, Medical Surgeon-Electrician, Consulting-Doctor to the London Electrical Dispensary, F.L.S. &c., begs to announce his intention of shortly giving a course of Six Lectures on the History, Philosophy and Medical powers of Galvanism, and its beneficial effects in Chronic Disorders, as well as its applicability and salutary influence, in the cure of the diseases of hot climates: also on the various auxiliary means successfully employed in his practice, as the Air-Pump Vapour and warm Air Baths, together with the New Apparatus he has recently invented for the purpose of an entire *new mode of treatment*, in a variety of acute and Chronic Diseases of the Stomach, Liver and Bowels, complaints of the Bladder, and the Disorders peculiar to Females.

These Lectures will be intended for the use of Medical persons who are engaged in the Honorable the East India Company's Service, or of those who are going to the West India Islands, or America. The number of Pupils will be limited for the display of experiments, and the illustrations made on dead and living subjects. The Lectures will be concise and practicable, as their object is to instruct the young practitioner in the uses of Galvanism &c. and to direct the various modes in which this powerful remedy should be employed. Many important and new discoveries will be noticed, and so many facts and results be narrated, being the result of 23 years' experience, as will put scepticism to the blush, and expose the ignorance of the vulgar, and the selfishness of the interested.

For a Prospectus of the Lectures, application is to be made to Mr. La Beaume, at his House No. 31, Southampton Row, Russell Square, by letters post paid. None but those who are going to the East or West Indies, or the two Americas, will be admitted to the first course.

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**N<sup>o.</sup> 114 To June 1st, 1825.**

**PRICE ONE SHILLING.**

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**THE MONTHLY  
Gazette of Health,  
OR  
Medical, Dietetic,  
PHILOSOPHICAL AND ANTI-EMPIRICAL  
JOURNAL.**

**EDITED BY**

**RICHARD REECE, M. D.**

**FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE " MEDICAL GUIDE,"  
" CHEMICAL GUIDE," CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF  
PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS, &c. &c. &c.**

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**LONDON:**

**PUBLISHED BY SHERWOOD AND CO. PATERNOSTER ROW; AND  
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R. Clay and Co. Printers, 8, Devonshire-street, Bishopsgate.

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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The “Pills for Gravel,” sent by a Subscriber to be analysed, are composed of yellow soap (three parts) and common turpentine (one part).

“A. S.” of Leominster, may depend on his commission being properly executed. The parties are well known to the Editors.

The Editors return their thanks to “B. T.” for his very friendly letter. The errata in a certain book are clearly typographical, which it is impossible for an author to prevent. Printers are like tinkers, who in mending one hole sometimes make three. In correcting a proof, the types are often misplaced, and this will even happen during the press-work, in consequence of letters being drawn out of their places, or the heads broken. The word *citron* (“*citron*” ointment) was written by the author *citrine*, but the compositor, supposing the ointment was made from the *citron* fruit, made it *citron*. The author corrected it *citrine*, but the overseer, as he is termed, on going over the proof, altered it again to *citron*, in consequence of not finding such a word in his dictionary. The Editors notice this circumstance to shew that authors are not always so much to be blamed for errors as “B. T.” imagines. The Editors will give the information respecting Galvanism, he solicits, in their next number, and they beg to assure him that they highly value his comments, and hope to be favoured with his proffered communications.

The cause of the complaint of “W. B.” of Oxon, is no doubt a sedentary life; the chief remedy is therefore exercise. If he also attends to his bowels, so as to obviate costiveness, (by taking five or ten grains of the alcaline extract of jalap every, or every other day),

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—continued.

lives abstemiously, and masters resolution to divert his mind from it, it will soon cease. The Editors have particularly noticed his complaint in the Appendix to the Gazette of Health, and also in the addition to the Appendix. The same advice they give to “S. W.” of Wells; “R. S. S.” of Islington; “W. F.” and “R. N.”

The Editors advise “Templar” to take three table-spoonsful of the following mixture three times a day, two of the pills every night for about a week, and to rub the skin, over the affected part, twice a day with the liniment.

**Take of Volatile Tincture of Guaiac Gum, six drachms,**

**Honey, three drachms,**

**Volatile Tincture of Colchicum Seeds, from two to three drachms,**

**Camphorated Julep, six ounces;**

Rub the tincture of guaiac gum with the honey in a glass mortar, and when well blended add by degrees the other articles.

**Take of Blue Pill,**

**Extract of Henbane, of each half a drachm,**

**Mix, and divide into fourteen pills.**

**Take of Volatile Liniment of Camphor, two ounces,**

**Tincture of Deadly Nightshade, three drachms.—Mix.**

If these remedies should not succeed, he may try shampooing and galvanism, or electricity, and lastly the Prussic acid in the decoction of bark (obstinate sciatica).

The queries of a “Wiltshire Clergyman,” the Editors will answer by post.

The Editors will attend to the hints of “Ricardus.” They recommend him to administer a weak solution of the carbonate of soda in the infusion of rhatany root in the case he has noticed (fluor albus with nausea). If this should not succeed, he may give the dilute sulphuric acid, or the compound spirit of sulphuric ether a trial. If there be much irritation either in the uterus or vagina, which is generally the case when attended with nausea, he may prescribe the extract of henbane. A camphorated Burgundy pitch plaster may be applied over the region of the stomach, and an injection of a solution of the acetate of alumine used two or three times a day.

“Mrs. S.” is advised to take No. 2, page 190, of the present number.

The physician concerning whose abilities “W. R.—n” enquires, is not known to the Editors.

If “Miss C.” withholds the name of the physician who attended her, the Editors must decline noticing her case.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

The beneficial Effects of Galvanism experienced by P. Cator, Esq. in a case of Disordered Liver and Stomach; Dr. Scudamore's Advertisement of the Acetous Extract of Colchicum; the Last Moments of Napoleon Bonaparte; Clarke's Treatise on the Teeth; Remarks on Mendererus's Spirit; the Nitrate of Potass; a Case of Scirrus cured by the Plaster of Belladonna, &c.; Dr. Paris's Medical and Philosophical Toys have been omitted in consequence of the length of the article on the Nervous Temperament.

The “truly interesting, or rather melancholy case of Dr. Thomson (noticed in the last Number), put into Versification by Old Mother Ainslie, and set to *Music* for the Bassoon, by Dr. Bossi, alias Gravelle, “*a la mode esprit Italian,*” is too ludicrous, and much too long for the Gazette of Health. The Editors will endeavour to condense it for the Cover of their next Number.

The spirited Remarks of “an Old Surgeon,” on the infamous practice of transferring, or rather selling Patients to the best bidder; and the puffing Letter of Messrs. *Lander* and *Landed* (Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, and Vendors of Medicines, in Sloane-street) with a Dissertation on the wonderful powers of a *Calf's Head seasoned* at Edinburgh, will afford a rich treat for the enlightened Inhabitants of Chelsea, &c.

The “Old Surgeon” may rest assured his name shall not transpire unless demanded by the party.

---

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London : printed for KNIGHT and LACEY, Paternoster-row.

N° 115

To July 1st, 1825.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

THE MONTHLY

# Gazette of Health,

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Willett's communication on the effects of over-doses of fox-glove, &c. was not received in time to appear in its proper department.

To "Dr. K." the Editors return their best thanks. They will be happy to correct any error he may point out in the article on snuff. The quotation to which he alludes, was from memory, but on comparing it with the original, he will find the meaning to be the same. If he will take the trouble to concentrate the article he has sent them, they will with pleasure insert it in their next number. He must be aware that the subscribers to the Gazette of Health, would not be pleased to find three or four pages of the work occupied by a subject, which to them can communicate little or no information of any real utility. They beg to assure the Doctor that they entertain a high opinion of his professional abilities, and that they are always proud of the support of medical gentlemen who dare to think for themselves.

The case of inflammation of the brain, at Shenley, which has been so shamefully neglected by a parish surgeon, with a copy of the Barnet apothecary's (a Mr. Morrison) polite and scientific letter, are intended for the next number. From the remarks we shall freely make on the shameful neglect of the patient, and the ignorance and impudence exhibited in the letter, we hope the apothecary will derive much useful information. The surgeon or apothecary who contracts to attend a parish at a stipulated sum, is bound to pay as much attention to a pauper of the parish, afflicted with a dangerous disease, as to the daughter of an opulent person, and for palpable neglect, he is subject to prosecution.

The occurrence noticed by "E. W—s," is not a disease, but the effect of sound sleep, and probably, formation of the soft palate, or elongation of the uvula. The only means of preventing it is to keep the mouth open.

If "J. P." will take the trouble to refer to page 51 of the present volume, he will find that the Editors have there given the information he requires, under the head of Treatment of Retention of Fæces from Stricture of the Rectum, &c.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—continued.

The Editors advise “A Subscriber” to take a tea-spoonful of the artificial Harrowgate salt, dissolved in a tumbler of water, every other morning, so as to produce two alvine evacuations daily. He may also take one of the pills recommended by Medicus, in our present number (p. 229), every night, for about a week. They advise him to make use of almond powder instead of soap, and never to wash his face when heated.

If “A Subscriber” at Bungay will send the pamphlet, to which he alludes, the Editors will notice it, and the nostrum, in their next number.

The exposition of the *honourable* nostrum-trade of Doctor Graham, has been omitted for want of room. It is composed, and shall appear in an early number.

The Editors thank “A Constant Reader,” who requires information on various subjects, unconnected with the objects of the Gazette of Health, for the credit he has given them for *universal* knowledge. If the wines, of which he speaks, agree with his stomach, he may certainly continue to take it. In the present number, the Editors have given instructions for making wine, which, if properly fermented, will be as salubrious as any foreign wine. To remove the effects of the sun on his skin, he may employ almond powder instead of soap. With respect to his papered room, the Editors suspect the wall, and not the paste, is in fault. Of the effects of common salt, in destroying dairies, and rendering grass brown, the Editors are ignorant. The only mode to prevent blistering of the paint of doors the Editors can suggest is, to protect them from the action of the rays of the sun.

“B. T.” may rest assured the Editors are satisfied of the value of his support, of which indeed they hope to give a satisfactory proof in their next number.

The case of “F. S.” is clearly asthmatic. The Editors advise her to give the oxymel of St. John’s bean, noticed in the present number, which they have found beneficial in a similar case. She may take a dessert-spoonful two or three times a day, in a wine-glassful of the infusion of horehound, or decoction of iceland moss.

Of the hints of “S. W. L.” respecting the lauder and the lauded, and the practice of selling patients to the best bidder, the Editors will avail themselves in an early number.

The remarks of “Chemicus” on Mr. Batley’s *wonderful* chemical discoveries are certainly just. The Editors will condense his exposition of this species of traffic for an early number.

“W. R.” having given nearly all the tonic remedies employed in medicine, the Editors advise him to take a teaspoonful of the volatile tincture of lupulin twice a day in a wine glass of water.

The Letters of “Hypo”—“J. S. F.” of Stockport—“L. L. J.” of Leeds—and “O. P.” of Manchester, the Editors will answer by post, in the course of a few days, addressed agreeably to their request.

“F. L.” and “W. S. P.” are referred to the Addition to the Appendix, where they will find their complaints particularly noticed.

The copies of several works forwarded by the Authors, shall meet with early attention.

This day is Published, in 1. vol. small 8vo. price 3s. 6d. bds.

**OBSERVATIONS** on the **CHOLERA MORBUS OF INDIA**: A Letter addressed to the Honourable the Court of Directors of the East India Company. By WHITELAW AINSLIE, M. D., M. R. A. S. late of the Medical Staff of Southern India. Printed for Kingsbury, Parbury, & Allen, Leadenhall-street.

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**I**NVALIDS and others, subject to Costiveness and other Irregularities of the Bowels, are respectfully solicited by the Patentee, to the inspection of **READ'S IMPROVED ENEMA SYRINGE**, so highly recommended by the most eminent Physicians and Surgeons of London, and various parts of England. This Syringe, with the *Esophagus* Tube, is the apparatus used by Sir Astley Cooper in his late celebrated experiment of removing poison from the stomach, and is warmly patronised by that experienced Professor and other leading Members of the Royal College of Surgeons. J. READ begs respectfully to add, that with the obliging leave of Messrs. REECE & Co. he has deposited both kinds of the above instruments at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, for general inspection, and with instructions for their use.

---

No. 11, Salisbury New Road, Mary-le-Bone, June 24, 1825.

**T**HERE is no Soda Water like PAYNE'S, his Seltzer Water and Magnesia Water are unequalled—not patent or any thing like it; manufactured in apparatus lined with silver from the same materials as the LATE MR. SCHEWPES contained, but with infinitely more Carbonic Acid Gas, the most valuable, healthy, agreeable and expensive article in the manufacture, by ROBERT PAYNE, PNEUMATIC CHEMIST, Mineral Water Manufacturer to His ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SUSSEX. Comparison with any other will insure future orders, and prove its very superior excellence. Robert Payne, returns his most unfeigned thanks to the nobility and gentry for the orders they have honoured him with, and to those disinterested Physicians who have so handsomely spoken of the quality of his manufactured Mineral Waters. Orders by post or otherwise, immediately attended to.

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N<sup>o</sup> 116 To August 1st, 1825.

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To “Mr. F.” the Editors return their best thanks for his favour of the 23d instant. The case is no doubt Scirrhus, but not so far advanced as the one they have noticed in their last Number.

The case of “Phœbe” is doubtless nervous. The Editors advise her to take from eight to twelve drops of the Tincture of Muriate of iron in a wine-glassful of a strong infusion of Valerian Root, three times a day, or three table-spoonsful of the following mixture three times a day.

Take of the wild Valerian Root finely powdered;  
Peruvian Bark ditto, of each four drachms;  
Alcaline Liquor of Iron, six drachms;  
Camphorated Julep, seven ounces.—Mix.

If the bowels should not be relieved twice a day, she may take eight or ten grains of the Ecphractic Pill of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia twice a day in lieu of the above mixture. She should keep up a discharge from the nostrils by a pinch of the compound Asarabacca snuff once or twice a day. She should wash her head once or twice a day with cold water, keep the feet and legs warm by wearing flannel stockings and by rubbing them every or every other night with bruised mustard-seed. She may give vital air a trial. The mineral water to which she alludes is similar to the mild aperient water of Cheltenham. If she should visit Brighton in the course of August, or the beginning of September, the Editors will be happy to give her any further advice in their power (at No. 4, East Street.) They have no hesitation in saying her complaint may be cured.—That she should have survived the remedies she has taken (arsenic, mercury, the acid bath) is more surprising than that they have not afforded relief, although administered under the superintendence of an eminent Physician and Surgeon. She should have noticed the effect of the “acid bath.”

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

The Biographical Sketch of Dr. Uwins, by a correspondent at Aylesbury, is much too long for insertion in the Gazette of Health; and as to his account of poor Shearman, we advise him to send it to the Bolt Court Society, of which he has been president since the death of the celebrated physician, Dr. Solomon, of Liverpool.

The Editors have received the “Bundle of MS. of Dr. Copland,” but unless Veritas favour them with his real name and address, or enable them to ascertain that the articles were written by the “*learned physiologist*,” they cannot notice them in this work. That a physician should fall in love with a *rich* widow is certainly, in these times, not extraordinary; but that he should take four draughts a day is very improbable, and, indeed, is much more than any physician, or *editor of a medical work*, can swallow. The *Bolting* Court Society, so named because the members have a most capacious swallow, and the president being a most learned man, may think his communication highly interesting, and to it the Editors advise their correspondent to send the *valuable collection*.

The queries of “D. D.” of Oxford, “R. S. T.” and “T. O.” of Manchester, “O. P.” of Hull, “S. F.” of Leominster, and “Maria,” of Bristol, the Editors will answer by post.

The letter of “A. B.” was not received in time to be noticed on the cover of the last number. The Editors advise him to apply cold water to his forehead for about five minutes, two or three times a day, by means of a wet napkin, and to keep his feet warm by wearing flannel socks. The Editors will order some medicines for him at the place he has mentioned.—The “bleeding at the nose” is probably occasioned by the tumour in the neck. If the bowels should not be relieved every day, or if he should become drowsy, or suffer from fulness of the vessels of the head, he should take two or three of the following pills twice or thrice a week; and if their purgative effects should not relieve the head, he should lose eight or ten ounces of blood.

**Take of Alcaline Extract of Jalap,**

Compound Colocynth pill, of each one drachm. Mix, and divide into twenty-four pills.

If “W. S.” and “R. S.” will persevere in the use of the Buchu Leaves, as directed by the Editors in their Addition to the Appendix, they have no hesitation in assuring them, that the remedy will cure their maladies.

To “R. E. F.” of Devizes, the Editors recommend the following mixture:

**Take of Oxymel of St. John’s Beans, three ounces;**

— Colchicum Seeds; one ounce.—A desert-spoonful to be taken three times a day.

Her case is decidedly asthmatic. She should attend to the advice respecting her management of the bowels, they have given to asthmatics in a late number.

The remarks of “M. D.” of Gloucester are inadmissible, because they contain no information of the smallest interest; and the scurrility would disgrace the pages of the Gazette of Health more than the *barren* Doctor he has so vehemently attacked.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

The Editors recommend B. T. to read a work published in 1794, by Mr. Johnson, of St. Paul's Church Yard, under the title of "Experiments on Animal Electricity, with their application to Physiology, and some Pathological Observations," by Eusebius Valle, M.D. Corresponding Member of the Royal Academy of Science of Turin. In their next number they intend to notice the results of some experiments with the galvanic fluid, lately made by Drs. Edwards and Breschet, in Paris, with their conclusions.

Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Jones's communications on the efficacy of the Caroba, or St. John's Bean, in cases of asthma and winter cough;—Mr. Willet's case of the effect of an over dose of Fox-glove,—and the effects of the Tartaric Acid in preventing and curing Heartburn, are intended for the next number.

The insertion of Dr. I. R.'s remarks on Dr. Struve's medicinal waters of Germany, *made at Brighton!!* the Editors have postponed until they have had an opportunity of examining them, which they hope will be in their power in the first week of August. They suspect the speculation is very nearly allied to the "Wine Company and Tea Company," which "Lottery humbug" has enabled a certain person to carry on to the credit of the "enlightened England."

The Editors have not been favoured with the book promised by D. F.

To the suggestions of J. P., G. G—d, and L. F., the Editors will pay attention. In the course of September, they may expect to see the work advertised.

Mr. Laurence's Letter on the Decoction of Quicksilver was not received in time to appear in the present number.

To the gentleman who has favoured the editors with a long article, under the head of "The Drug Bubble, or a Narrative of the short life, sudden death, character, behaviour, last dying speech and confession of the London Drug Company," the Editors return their best thanks. They will be obliged to him to favour them with the names and residences of some of the "old women" who advanced money, that they may obtain their permission to make a full exposure of the speculation. We agree with him, that this drug concern should be well *analysed* and well sifted, as well as the horse, gig, and livery exhibition. The Editors will apply to Sir William Rawlins for a list of enlightened, or rather *lightened members*.

R. S. is advised to take two tea-spoonsful of the tincture of sulphate of Quinine, or of the volatile Tincture of Lupulin, in a wine-glassful of water three times a day. If the bowels should not be sufficiently relieved every day, he may take ten or fifteen grains of the Alcaline Extract of Jalap in three pills, twice a week. His mode of living is proper.

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N° 117

To Sept. 1st, 1825.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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THE MONTHLY

# Gazette of Health,

OR

Medical, Dietetic,

PHILOSOPHICAL AND ANTI-EMPIRICAL  
JOURNAL.

EDITED BY

RICHARD REECE, M. D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "MEDICAL GUIDE,"  
"CHEMICAL GUIDE," CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF  
PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS, &c. &c. &c.

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## LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY SHERWOOD AND CO. PATERNOSTER ROW; AND  
SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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R. Clay, and Co. Printers, 9, Devonshire-street, Bishopsgate.

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Dr. K.'s note, although dated the 6th of July, was not received till the 30th, when the last half-sheet of the present Number was in print. The Editors will attend to the corrections in their next Number. They beg to assure him, they shall consider themselves honoured by any communication from him.

The Editors are sorry they were not favoured with the particulars of the two extraordinary cases of ignorance and neglect, which lately occurred at St. George's Hospital, to appear in their present Number. The Editors agree with their Correspondent, that much good to the public and to the medical science in particular, will result from the investigation their publicity must necessarily provoke. The monopoly of the Hospital practice of London, by a set of mercenary Physicians and Surgeons who do not contribute a farthing towards their support; who, in fact, will do nothing but *beg* for them, when their finances are not equal to the expenditures, or who, like the Priest in the fable, will only give them their blessing, or, what costs them nothing, ultimately to *benefit themselves*, is a disgrace to the country.

If "W. S." will refer to the Second Number of an interesting periodical work, entitled the "*Aurist*," edited by Mr. Wright, a scientific, and deservedly the leading Aurist of London, he will find his opinions respecting the *murderous mercurializing practice*, fully confirmed, by some *practical* remarks on the indiscriminate use of mercury, by Dr. Halladay, a Physician of great eminence in the East Indies. Mr. Wright's observations on the baneful effects of mercury on the organs of hearing, we have already noticed.

The unsuccessful cases of Lythotomy, performed by Mr. Brodie, a Surgeon *in Ordinary* to St. George's Hospital, are much too concise.

If "Medicus" will favour the Editors with his ideas of the probable causes of the unfavourable results, they will insert them. With three of the cases, the Editors are well acquainted.

The case of inflammation of the brain, pronounced typhus, by the Barnet Doctor, (Morrison) is intended for the next Number.

With the urgent request of a Gentleman, of Croydon, respecting Doctor Graham and his nostrums, the Editors will comply.

The Drug Company Bubble in the next Number.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—continued.

“W. S.” is so far correct, that Dr. Thornton’s name is not in the list of Licentiates. The Editors will be glad to receive the particulars of his oxygene practice.

The Editors, in consequence of being at Brighton, were not favoured with Dr. Kinglake’s very valuable papers, on a case of stricture of the urethra, and on poisoned wounds, until the 30th, when it was too late for insertion in the present number. They return him their best thanks for them. To “Ricardus” they have the same excuse to make, for the omission of his case of whitloe. The practice to which he alludes (of giving emetic tartar, in the dose of a drachm) has long prevailed in Italy; and if the accounts of its effects, in cases of inflammatory fever, and inflammation of the lungs, be correct, a large dose of emetic tartar allays irritation in the stomach, and a small one produces it. When a small dose excites violent irritation, or vomiting, a large one will therefore prevent its further operation !! A few years ago, a convert to the Italian doctrines prescribed twenty grains of emetic tartar for a child, aged ten months, afflicted with inflammation, as an anti-irritant, or sedative, to quiet, as he said, the system; and the Doctor’s prediction of its quieting effects was soon confirmed, the patient being, a few hours after its exhibition, defunct !

The Editors return their thanks to Mr. J. Jackson, for the “preference he has given the *Gazette of Health*.” His letter is too personal, and too much of an advertisement, and too barren of useful information, for insertion in this work.

The Editors assure “J.P.” that his complimentary preface was unnecessary. They require no such encouragement to do their duty. Censure and commendation are to them equally indifferent. They will not deny his assertion that “the religion cannot be bad that teaches man to be good,” but this they say, that the religion cannot be good or of divine origin that militates against the progress of science, and the well-being of man; and especially that, the spirit of which is to check the advance of that great gift of the Creator—Reason.

To “Miserable,” the advice of the Editors is, abandon the practice. The “Man who turns away from his wickedness, and doeth that which is lawful and right shall save his soul alive.”

Of the experience of “Mrs. S——d,” the Editors will avail themselves.

The Editors advise “R. S.” of Bath, to give the treatment a trial, which is recommended in the present number, for gonorrhœal rheumatism.

The case of “W. R. S.” is nervous indigestion, a complaint the Editors have noticed in the present number. As to the affection of the knee, it is probably incipient white swelling.

The Queries of “W. R. S.” and “L. L.” the Editors will answer by post.

The Editors have not seen the work to which “F. L.” alludes. They will purchase a copy; and if they find it to possess any merit, they will notice it in an early number.

The Editors are not aware that an apothecary can be compelled to give a *written* statement of the medicines he has administered to a patient; but if an apothecary refuses to do it, the inference is, he is aware that his treatment of the case was bad. In case of a prosecution for mal-treatment, an apothecary is under the necessity of

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—continued.

specifying the treatment in his defence, and to justify it by evidence ; and in cases of fever of every kind, whatever the treatment may have been, if the patient were not poisoned by an over-dose of deleterious drugs, so opposite are the treatments of different practitioners of eminence, of the same fever, that if a “Subscriber,” at Brighton, were to institute legal proceedings against his apothecary, and bring forward twenty practitioners of respectability to swear that his treatment was highly improper, and that it had evidently accelerated the death of the patient, the defendant would be able to bring forward as many of equal eminence to swear that it was very judicious, and that it gave the patient the only chance of recovery. Such is the degree of perfection to which medicine has been brought by modern theorists. When an Apothecary sends an emetic, or an aperient medicine, it is common to acquaint the patient, the nurse, or some person in attendance, with the intended operation ; and if it produced the effect, a physician, who subsequently takes the care of the patient, may state his opinion as to the propriety of the practice. It is common for the apothecary to acquaint the physician with the composition of the medicines he had given, and their effects ; but in most cases, where the physician is not recommended by the apothecary, it is very common for him to censure the practice that had been adopted. Mal-practice being an indictable offence, the complainant may summon the apothecary before a magistrate for the offence, when he will find it necessary to give a statement of his treatment. The composition of the medicines may in general be proved by his assistant or apprentice. More actions have been brought against physicians for condemning the practice of apothecaries, than against apothecaries for mal-treatment on the opinion of a physician, and in some, heavy damages have been given. If a “Subscriber” at Brighton, will favour the Editors with a call, at No. 4, East Street, Brighton, after the 2d of September, they will shew him some cases of prosecutions of Apothecaries for maltreatment.

*Communications for the next Number are to be addressed to the Editors,  
No. 4, East Street, Brighton.*

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### EAU-DE-COLOGNE.

WE at once sincerely congratulate the BEAU-MONDE, the Faculty, Dentists, and Invalids of either Sex, upon the facility now available, at the Court-end of the Metropolis, for procuring that pre-eminently celebrated and truly inestimable medicinal appendage of the Toilet, FARINA’s Genuine *Eau-de-Cologne* (à la Paul Feménés), direct from the Rhine, emanating in the special appointment of M. DURAND, Foreign Perfumer, 25, St. James’s Street, from which circumstance we are led to hope, at least, that the almost innumerable spurious preparations, designated by the above most flagrantly abused name, will, ere long, become entirely exploded from the gaudy window of the subtle self-manufacturing (and but too often, alas, no more than pretending self-styled) chemist, down to that of the still more ignorant, as, forsooth, necessarily more fair dealing, two-penny *Friseur* of the Capital, and elsewhere ; for, to borrow a well-known phrase of the inimitably facetious “ MATTHEWS AT HOME,” “ *We have analysed it, and we know it!* ”

N<sup>o</sup>. 118

To Oct. 1st, 1825.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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On account of the length of the article on the Climacteric Disease, and on the advanced period of Life, the Editors have been under the necessity of omitting Mr. J.'s (of the Isle of Wight) Remarks on Mr. Willett's Cases of Poisoning by Foxglove; Dr. Nohenden, on the Poisonous effects of the Sulphate of Bark; Dr. Thompson's receipt for a Tooth Powder; extraordinary Case of falling out of all the Teeth, after the use of an advertised tooth powder; the conclusion of the Analysis of Dr. Gibney's valuable publication on the Vapour Bath; Dr. Graham's and Dr. Scuddamore's empirical works on Cancer and Colchicum; a practical Treatise on Iodine; Mr. Green's " Reports of authentic Cases and Observations on different Baths;" Treatment and contracted Joints and on Stooping, by Mr. Shaw; Mr. Thomas's case of Salivation by one dose of Calomel; Dr. Edwards's Analysis of Battley's sedative Liquor; and a successful Mode of Curing Whitloe.

The remarks of "J. O. P." are much too personal. His instances of the connubial philosophy of a Cheltenham doctor would neither amuse nor instruct the readers of the Gazette of Health. His practice, or quackery, is a fair subject for comment; and if J. O. P. will divest his communication of "domestic matter," and favour the Editors with his name, they will give it a place in their next number.

The complaint of the putrid smell and taste of the water of different springs at Brighton and Worthing by Dr. J. R., was not received in time to appear in the present number. The Editors have satisfactorily ascertained the cause, and they agree with Dr. J. R., that it is improper for any domestic purpose, even, as he observes, that of washing the floor of a room.

The case of "W. R—, of E—," is probably syphilitic. The Editors advise him to consult an eminent Surgeon, of which there are many in the city in which he resides.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS--continued.

With the urgent request of "Mad. C." the Editors will comply as soon as they receive her second communication.

"Paternoster's" remarks on the expense of advertising scientific books are just. His proposition shall meet with early attention.

To "Clericus" the Editors recommend the following medicines:

Take of Aromatic Tincture of Rhatany Root, two ounces;

Solution of Subcarbonate of Potass,

Compound Spirit of Ammonia, of each 3 drachms—Mix.

Two large tea-spoonsful to be taken two or three times a day, in a wine-glass of water. To obviate costiveness, he may take daily one or two pills of the alkaline extract of jalap (four grains, with one of ginger powder, in each pill). They advise him to adopt the diet they have recommended to elderly people in the present number.

A "Medical Tyro" the Editors refer to the new Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia for the information he requires. The assertion of his Bookseller, that it is out of print, the Editors find to be incorrect.

The Editors acquaint "S. T. V." that a new Edition of the Treatise on the Buchu Leaves, considerably enlarged, particularly on the complaints he has specified, is in the press, and will be published about the 15th of October.

The complimentary letter of "G. R." of Norfolk is unmerited. The Editors would comply with his suggestion, but to accomplish such a work would take more time than the Editors could possibly devote to it: they do not, like the editors of other journals, employ an amanuensis.

The Letters of consultation of "W. S." and "Maria" are so long, that they must postpone answering them till they are more at leisure. They will direct their replies agreeably to their requests.

The Cases of "W. S." are more proper for the Wonderful Magazine than the Gazette of Health.

The case of the Death of a Patient in the Brighton Infirmary, after extra-sounding, is so improbable, that the Editors have thought proper to defer its publication till they have made inquiries respecting it at head-quarters.

"A. B." should have noticed her age. She may take two of the following pills twice a day.

Take of Aromatic Pill, a drachm and half;

Precipitated Sulphuret of Antimony, a scruple—Mix.

And divide into twenty-four pills. She may rub the parts affected every night with the cajeput liniment, or the volatile camphorated liniment, or the galvanic brush. She should wear flannel next the skin (chronic rheumatism.)

---

Communications and new Works, addressed to the Editors, No. 170, Piccadilly, are thankfully received.

**SIR ASTLEY COOPER** and other Professional Gentlemen having patronized READ's Apparatus for the Treatment of Costiveness, Obstructions in the Bowels, Flatulency, Colic, Gravel and Stone, Piles, Worms, Biliary Complaints, &c. &c. ; and the Royal College of Surgeons having been pleased to approve and sanction the same, the Patentee respectfully solicits the attention of the Faculty and Private Families to his PATENT ENEMA SYRINGE, prepared of a new Compound Metal, resembling Silver, equally brilliant, but much more durable. The Apparatus, though it possesses infinitely more power than any other instrument of this nature, is so manageable that it may be worked with the finger and thumb only, so small and portable that it may be carried in the pocket, and so simple that injections may be administered by invalids themselves without the aid of a second person.

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### SUPERIOR SODA WATER.

Mr. PAYNE, Pneumatic Chemist, late of No. 136, New Bond-Street, Manufacturer of all the Mineral Waters, to His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, respectfully begs leave to return his most unfeigned Thanks to the Nobility, Gentry, and Medical World, for the generous Encouragement they have been pleased to honour his Manufactory of the Mineral Waters with, particularly his superior Manufactory of Soda Water; and trusts, by a continuance of its superior Quality, not only to obtain their future Orders, but Recommendations.—All Orders by Post, or otherwise, to No. 11, Salisbury Place, New Road (Five Doors West of Gloucester Place, Portman Square), will be most thankfully received, and instantly attended to.

N<sup>o</sup>. 119. .... To Nov. 1st, 1825.

PRICE ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE.

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To the requests of "M. D." of Stratford, and of the "Rev. J. S." the Editors will pay early attention.

A new edition of the pamphlet of which "S. W." and "R——d" have not been able to procure a copy, will be published about the 15th of November.

The Editors beg to assure "Mr. J. Jones" they have not seen a copy of the work to which he alludes. His extract proves it to be empirical.

To "R. S." the Editors return their thanks for a copy of Dr. Armstrong's Letter.

The Epitaph on the Medical Repository, commencing "*Here lies,*" shall appear as soon as the work is defunct, which is monthly expected. A small spark remaining, it is supposed that the "*Brum-  
mingham Doctor*" may puff it into a blaze, and that Turpentine will support it for a few months.

"W. S." may rest assured that the Editors will attend to the German waters *made in Brighton* in their next number.

"W. R. S." requests the Editors to insert on the cover of this Work, the following question: "Can the man possess a sound mind, who voluntarily exposes himself to the bite of a mad dog, under the idea that the disease is imaginary? If the disease be produced in an ass by the bite of a mad dog, can it in such case be the effect of imagination?" The Editors have not seen the work to which W. R. S. alludes. They will procure a copy, and notice it in their next number.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—continued.

“R. S.” is no doubt correct, and the Editors advise him to publish *the facts*, “the truth, the whole truth, and *nothing but the truth*.”

The case of “Mrs. S.” is asthma. The Editors advise her to take a dessert-spoonful of the oxymel of St. John’s bean, with one drop of the Prussic acid three times a day, in a wine-glassful of the infusion of buchu leaves. She may give oxygen a trial.

The Scudamorean quackery has not been forgotten or overlooked, as “J. S.” of Highgate supposes. The article on it has been written three months, and has only been omitted to make room for more useful matter.

The Letter of W. S. L.” on Dr. Lauder, has not been received.

The Lamentations of “Mother Goose,” on the death of the Society of Physicians of the United Kingdom, which had taken *high ground* (!!!), is too personal. The lectures delivered by Dr. Shearman, on the Watery Head (!!!), and by Dr. Copland, on a newly-discovered diseased “softness of brain,” the Editors consider sufficient to upset any *philosophical* society. Dr. Copland’s song, of “Goosy, Goosy, where shall I wander,” set to the music in the *Beggar’s Opera*, certainly contains much genuine wit, but it is too barren of useful information for insertion in this journal.

The Editors are happy to have it in their power to inform “Dr. J. S.” that Dr. P. is still in the land of the living, and they hope he will long continue so.

“R. W. S.” of Shrewsbury, “L. O. P.” of Worcester, “F.” of Hereford, the Editors refer to the new edition of their Practical Treatise on Strictures, Tabes Dorsalis, Hypochondriasis of Youth, &c., which will be published about the 15th of November.

The communication of “W. R.” on the newly-discovered Chalybeate spring at Great Malver, was received on the 8th of October. The Editors having lately had an opportunity to examine the water, are disposed to suspect it is slightly impregnated with iron, in consequence of passing over an old iron tea kettle. They will, however, give an analysis of it in an early number.

The editors advise “J. P., of H.” to take two teaspoonsful of the oxymel of hedge hyssop, three times a day, in a wine glass full of barley water, to continue the use of the burgundy pitch plaster, and to obviate costiveness by taking five or ten grains of rhubarb powder every, or every other night, (made into pills with a little simple syrup,) according to their effects on the bowels. She should wear flannel next the skin, and avoid stimulating articles in her diet. Her case is constitutional cough, which, if neglected, will advance to pulmonary consumption. In case of acute pains in the chest or giddiness, the loss of blood may be necessary. The idea of the cough being rheumatic, is ridiculous.

The Editors have not received the book from “D. T.”

To “J. P.” the Editors will write about the 6th of November.

The Editors have received Dr. Lampnore’s reports of the medicinal virtues of the Aluminous Chalybeate Water of the Isle of Wight. They are sorry they have not had room to notice the water in their present Number.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

The Editors have postponed the insertion of the narrative of the short life, sudden death, *character, behaviour, last dying speech, and confession* of the London Drug Company, in expectation of receiving from the treasurer some interesting information.

The letter of Diogenes, dated Sept. 5th, was not received till Oct. 20th. The Editors will be happy to see him any day about twelve or one o'clock, at No. 8, Bolton-row.

If “E. R.” had attentively read the 116th number of this work, she would not have stood in need of the advice she solicits. The Editors refer her to the first four pages of that number.

“R. W. B.” may take a teaspoonful of the ammoniated tincture of colchicum seeds, twice a day, in a wine-glass of barley water, and keep the bowels in a regular state by the aperient pills of the alkaline extract of jalap.

The editors return their thanks to “D. D.” of Salisbury, for his complimentary letter. They hope to be able to finish their work on the means of regulating the bowels, under a variety of chronic diseases, or in constitutions predisposed to various diseases, in the course of the month of November.

The Editors agree with “M. D.” that the complaints of “E. W. L.” are proper ones for galvanism.

The queries of “H. R.” of Leeds; “W. D—d,” of Bristol; “L. S. S.” of Liverpool; “T. S.” of Dublin; the Editors will answer by post.

The Editors will, with pleasure, assist “R. R.” of New York, in his most praiseworthy undertaking.

The Editors advise “the Patient at Newington,” to take two spoonfuls of the following drops three times a-day, in a wine-glassful of barley water:

Take of Tincture of Cubebs, half an ounce;

Ditto Buchu Leaves, one ounce;

Liquor of Potass, two drachms.—Mix.

The different stages of human life will be concluded in the next number.

*☞ Communications and new publications for this work are thankfully received at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, or No. 8 Bolton-row.*

### WORKS IN THE PRESS.

The Fourth Edition, considerably enlarged.

**A PRACTICAL TREATISE** on STRICTURES of the URETHRA and RECTUM, Morbid Irritation of the Bladder, Urethra, &c. Tabes Dorsalis, certain Local Debilities, the peculiar Hypochondriasis of Youth, &c. &c. &c., with Cases illustrative of the beneficial Effects of different preparations of the Buchu Leaves and Auxiliaries in those affections, &c. &c. &c. By RICHARD REECE, M. D. Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Author of the Medical Guide, Editor of the Gazette of Health, Honorary Member of the Society of Practical Medicine at Paris, &c. &c.

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Printed for Simpkin and Marshall, Stationers' Court, and Sold by all Booksellers in the United Kingdom.

N<sup>o</sup>. 120

To Dec. 1st, 1825.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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THE MONTHLY  
**Gazette of Health,**  
OR  
**Medical, Dietetic,**  
**PHILOSOPHICAL AND ANTI-EMPIRICAL**  
**JOURNAL.**

EDITED BY

**RICHARD REECE, M. D.**

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "MEDICAL GUIDE,"  
"CHEMICAL GUIDE," CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF  
PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS, &c. &c. &c.

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LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY SHERWOOD AND CO. PATERNOSTER ROW; AND  
SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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R. Clay and Co. Printers, 9, Devonshire-street, Bishopsgate.

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The powder forwarded by a "Constant Reader," of Cork, is apparently the Deadly Night Shade. The Editors will notice it in their next Number, with his excellent letter on Quackery.

Mr. Shaw's extraordinary cases of Amputation and Lithotomy are intended for an early Number.

To "Amicus" the Editors return their best thanks. They are sorry they had not room for his excellent letter on Spine Cases.

The Editors are at a loss to reply to the question by "Delia" as to the propriety of administering brandy and wine. The quantity was, in their opinion, much too great. The habit of the young lady was doubtless in fault. The Editors advise Delia to give her 4 grains of the blue pill every night for a week, and a wine-glassful of camomile tea, with 10 grains of subcarbonate of soda, twice a-day. If the bowels should not be sufficiently relieved every day, she may add 5 or 10 grains of the alkaline extract of jalap to every or every other dose of the blue pill.

The letter of "J. R." of Y—, the Editors will answer by post.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

The Editors advise “E. L—s” to introduce a little of the following ointment into the corners of the eyes, and to rub a little along the edges of the lids every night:

Take of Submuriate of Mercurv, 1 scruple;

Flowers of Zinc, 6 grains;

Fresh Spermaceti Ointment, half an ounce;

To be mixed well together. He may take two tea-spoonsful of the following drops, twice a-day, in a wine-glass of water:

Take of Tincture of Columbo, 2 ounces;

Liquor of Subcarbonate of Potass, 3 drachms—Mix.

The person concerning whose residence “A. M. B.” inquires, is removed to Knightsbridge.

“R. S.” and “W. F.” are informed, that a new edition of the publication on the Buchu Leaves will be published on the 2d of December. The Editors have made numerous additions to it, particularly on the varieties of Stricture of the Urethra and Rectum, Tabes Dorsalis, &c. &c. &c.

“Maria” may indulge in her inclination to use the Tooth Powder and Lotion, noticed in the last Number. They not only render the teeth white and healthy, but by constringing the gum, tend to keep them firm in their sockets. The Lotion may be used as she has suggested, to clean the tongue. One trial will satisfy her of the superiority of the Powder. The one she has been in the habit of employing, although she obtained it from a dentist, contains chalk.

The Editors have not seen the puffing advertisement of St. George’s Hospital, to which “J— A—” alludes. They will procure a copy of it for their next Number.

To “Junius” the Editors return their thanks. They will cheerfully accept of his offer. They beg he will be very exact in giving the particulars.

The communications of Drs. Muller, Thompson, and Robertson, have been duly received.

The task Dr. “G. S.” has proposed to the Editors is much too great for them to undertake. They find the labour of the Gazette of Health quite sufficient for them.

The Editors advise “J. C.” of B—, to take three table-spoonsful of the following mixture three times a day.

Take of Tincture of Columbo, four drachms :

Prussic Acid, ten drops;

Compound Spirit of Sulphuric Ether, three drachms;

Camphorated Mixture, seven ounces—Mix.

He may also take at bed-time for about one week three grains of the blue pill, to which four or six grains of the alkaline extract of jalap may be added, if his bowels should not be sufficiently relieved every day. If he has any difficulty in swallowing a pill, he may take half a grain of calomel, with a little currant jelly, or with a tea-spoonful or two of the lenitive electuary, according to the state of the bowels. If the complaint should not give way to these remedies, he may attribute its obstinacy to the existence of stricture, or diseased structure in the gullet.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS—continued.

The Editors beg to assure “Mrs. G.” of Wells, that they have met with numerous cases of asthma, winter cough, and incipient cough, in which the oxymel of St. John’s bean has proved very beneficial, and that it cannot possibly have an injurious effect.

The spirited letter of a “Hospital Surgeon,” on the difference between operations on the *dead* body in the dissection, where Mr. Shaw obtained his experience, and those on the *living* body, was not received in time to appear in the present Number.

The letter of “J. S.” of Cheapside, conveys no *new* information to the Editors. Of the periodical medical work to which he alludes, even Dr. Eady may obtain the *Editorship*, on purchasing the back numbers at half the trade price.

The request of “Catholicus” is somewhat inconsistent. After abusing the Editors for “mixing medicine with religion,” he solicits them to insert a letter on religion only. The Editors’ opposition to the Catholic religion arises entirely from its baneful influence on science, by checking a disposition to inquiry and rational discussion. Catholicus must be weak indeed to suppose that the men of science of Catholic countries are in their hearts Catholics. The Editors can inform him that they despise the bigotry, superstition, and darkness of Catholicism. As to his assertion that mad-houses are most numerous in Protestant countries, it is not correct. In Catholic countries, every nunnery, and, indeed, every place of Catholic worship, is a mad-house. Is not every nun a mad enthusiast? If “common sense” has really crept into the Catholic religion of late years, as Catholicus intimates, the Editors are willing to leave it to its operation. Common sense is the dry rot of superstitious institutions, and to it they will assuredly fall.

The Editors will be glad to render “A. D. R.” any assistance in their power. The person to whom he alludes is an impostor.

*Communications and new publications for this work are thankfully received at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, or No. 8, Bolton-row.*

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